Saturday, September 6, 2025 No 247 ₹8

US firm misses schedule to deliver Tejas Mk1A engines

Company now promises to supply 3-5 engines by Oct

P11

DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Lookout circular against Shilpa Shetty, Raj Kundra

Action against actress, husband in Rs 60-cr cheating case

P10

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Bengaluru Saturday, September 6, 2025 Pages 28 Vol 78 No 247 ₹8

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WHACKY VERSE

Quick gun dragon

Fighting a big tariff war
Trump left the door ajar.
So Xi started hootin'
For Modi and Putin--
To hitch to the China star.

DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Vedanta beats Adani for JAL acquisition

Mining giant makes Rs 17k cr bid

P13

Tariffs: Govt mulls relief package for exporters

Russian oil economical, will continue to buy it: FM

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union government is soon likely to come out with a relief package to support industries and exporters that have been impacted due to imposition of high tariffs by the United States on Indian goods.

The proposed measures are likely to focus on easing pressure on working capital and facilitating exporters in exploring alternative markets, sources said.

In the Union Budget presented in February, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced setting up an Export Promotion Mission to boost India's exports.

"We will set up an Export Promotion Mission, with sectoral and ministerial targets, driven jointly by the Ministries of Commerce, MSME, and Finance," the finance minister had said in her Budget speech.

According to a source, the proposed measures would include operationalisation of the Export Promotion Mission.

Special focus will be on labour-intensive sectors like textiles, apparel, gems and jewellery, leather and footwear and agri-marine, which have been badly impacted due to imposition of 50% tariffs by US President Donald Trump administration.

"It is very clear that the industries have been speaking about the tariff. The government has designed something for itself. We will come out with something to handhold those who are hit by the 50% tariff," Sitharaman told a private TV channel.

Tackling tariffs

Relief package likely to focus on easing pressure on working capital, helping exporters explore alternative markets

- Proposed measures to include operationalising Export Promotion Mission
- Govt working on package which would be discussed in the Cabinet
- Special focus will be on labour-intensive sectors

Lost India, Russia to China: Trump

It looks like the US has lost India and Russia to "darkest" China, President Donald Trump said on Friday in his latest remarks as ties between New Delhi and Washington continue to reel under possibly the worst phase in over two decades.
Details on Page 12

The finance minister said that India will continue to buy Russian oil as it proves economical despite the Trump administration's decision to impose heavy import tariffs on Indian goods.

"We will have to take a call which (supply source) suits us the best. So we will undoubtedly be buying it," she said, adding that India spends most of its foreign exchange on purchases of crude oil.

"Whether it is Russian oil or anything else, it's our decision to buy from the place which suits our needs whether in terms of rates, logistics, anything," she added.

On measures to help exporters, she said the government was working on it and it would be discussed in the Cabinet.
India will say sorry: US official, Page 12

TAXING TIMES

- K'taka is India's largest arecanut producer. Rashi idi is the major variety used in pan masala, while chali is used for pan beeda
- As per MAMCOS, over 95% of the rashi variety of arecanut grown in the state is used in pan masala
- Some traders fear hike may prompt companies to evade taxes by sourcing directly from growers without issuing receipts
- An agri economist feels the tax hike would not affect the chali variety cultivated in DK and Udupi, as consumers from Guj, Maha prefer it

GST hike fuels unease among areca growers

Income loss feared after levy on pan masala hiked to 40%

DH SPECIAL

NRUPATHUNGA S K, HARSHA & MANJUNATH HEGDE BOMNALLI
DAVANGERE/MANGALURU/HUBBALLI, DHNS

Arecanut growers and cooperative bodies in Karnataka are on tenterhooks after the Goods and Services Tax (GST) on pan masala was hiked from 28% to 40%.

Organisations such as the Malnad Areca Marketing Co-operative Society Ltd

(MAMCOS) fear that the hike could disrupt trade and affect farmers' incomes, while some traders feel it is too early to predict the ripple effects of the hike.

Karnataka has reason to worry. It is India's largest arecanut-producing state, with cultivation spread over more than seven lakh hectares (possibly approaching 10 lakh hectares now).

The state produces both raw and dried areca. Rashi idi is the major variety used in pan masala, while chali is used for pan beeda; hasa and bette are primarily used in sweet supari.

Sources in Horticulture Department said chali accounts for more than 40% of Karnataka's arecanut output.

Speaking to DH, MAMCOS managing director Srikanth said over 95% of the rashi variety grown in the state is used in pan masala.

"MAMCOS alone has sent over three lakh sacks of arecanut worth Rs 400 crore this year to pan masala companies based in northern states, including Delhi, Bihar, UP and MP. With 40% GST, prices are likely to increase, which could reduce consumption and affect growers," he said.

One major worry among authorised traders is that the hike may prompt companies to evade taxes by sourcing directly from growers without issuing receipts.
▸ Areca, Page 5

Triangles and the India map

Two authors retell the scientific mission that created accurate maps of the Indian subcontinent

The SATURDAY STORY

Before the advent of satellites, how were vast landscapes mapped? Over two centuries ago, a bold mission set out to chart the Indian subcontinent using the technique of triangulation. Called the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India, it aligned with the East India Company's expansionist ambitions. It established Mt Everest as the world's highest peak, and revealed the Earth's shape. The stage for this scientific endeavour was set in Bengaluru.

In the early 1800s, British surveyors and Indian assistants hauled half-tonne equipment through forests and villages for the mapping exercise. In today's *Saturday Story*, two authors of a book on the subject revisit this project. Among other things, they were keen on understanding how Indians figured in it, and how villagers reacted when survey parties entered their fields. While many details eluded them, they encountered the "so-called pundits". Who were they?

Full story, See pullout

China boundary dispute biggest challenge: CDS

LUCKNOW, DHNS: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan on Friday said the boundary dispute with China was the biggest challenge before the country along with Pakistan's strategy to 'bleed India with thousand cuts' even as he reiterated that the armed forces had 'complete freedom' during Operation Sindoor, which included 'planning' the attacks and 'choosing' the targets.

CDS General Anil Chauhan

Speaking at an event in Gorakhpur, Gen Chauhan said the rules of war had changed and now they also included cyber and space wars.

The chief of defence staff further said that after the Balakot strikes, both India and Pakistan had learnt their lessons, though differently.
Details on Page 11

FREAK TRAGEDY P 4

9-yr-old boy dies after air gun goes off accidentally

A nine-year-old boy died of a pellet shot after his brother accidentally pressed the trigger of an air gun held by a farm caretaker on the outskirts of Sirsi on Friday. The caretaker had come to the farm along with the air gun. The incident occurred when the seven-year-old child of farmworker Basappa Undiyar pulled the trigger unintentionally. The pellet from the gun hit the sibling Kariyappa in his chest, killing him on the spot.

TOP JOB P 12

Thai parliament elects new PM with big majority

Veteran Thai politician Anutin Charnvirakul was elected prime minister on Friday after winning a parliamentary vote. The leader of the Bhumjaithai party won 311 votes, far exceeding the 247 required from the House of Representatives' 492 active members.

CAMERA CATCH P 5

CM's official car under lens for seven traffic violations

The official Toyota Fortuner SUV used by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has been found to be in violation of traffic rules on seven separate occasions since 2024, as captured by cameras of the Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) across the city. Sources said the accumulated fines for all seven violations have now been paid. Six of the seven violations were for the CM not wearing a seat belt.

Bhovi corporation chief resigns amid corruption row

BENGALURU, DHNS: Facing corruption allegations, Karnataka Bhovi Development Corporation chairperson S Ravikumar submitted his resignation to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday.

Earlier this week, Ravikumar was purportedly caught on camera demanding bribes.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had directed him to step down.

In his resignation letter, Ravikumar stated that there was no corruption during his tenure that started in March last year. "I've been targeted because I came forward to address some undesirable matters and fix indiscipline that I detected. I seek investigation into and action against those who made a video to tarnish me," he said.

Ravikumar added that he was resigning due to difficulties in carrying out his responsibility as the chairperson "since I am a resident of Shivamogga".

'Not unconstitutional': Ballot papers will be used for B'luru civic polls, says SEC

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ballot papers will be used in the upcoming polls for five new municipal corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), State Election Commissioner GS Sangreshi said on Friday.

Sangreshi was reacting to the state Cabinet decision Friday on replacing electronic voting machines (EVM) with ballot papers for all local body elections. The Cabinet also decided to authorise the SEC with preparation and revision of electoral rolls.

The much-delayed election of municipal councillors in Bengaluru, last held in 2015, are slated early next year. Election to the now-abrogated Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) was due in 2020.

"The SEC will prepare the electoral rolls and use ballot papers for elections to the five GBA corporations," Sangreshi told reporters.

The Supreme Court, Sangreshi said, has directed the state government to complete the delimitation exercise by November 1 and fix ward-wise reservations by November 30. "The government is working towards this as per my knowledge," he said.

Elections to zilla panchayats and taluk panchayats are also due. They were supposed to be held in May-June 2021.

The SEC is ready to hold local body polls using ballot papers, Sangreshi insisted, adding that he need not consult the Election Commission.
▸ Ballot papers, Page 5

Dissolve Assembly: BJP dares Cong

The Opposition BJP on Friday asked Congress to dissolve the Assembly and face fresh polls, saying the government has expressed suspicion on the same EVMs that were used in the 2023 Assembly election that it won.
Details on Page 6

DESERVING HONOUR

National award for Mysuru teacher for tech aid

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A teacher from a government school from Mysuru who created a lounge for kids which had robotics, AI, a 3D printer and drone, were among the teachers who were presented the National Teachers Awards 2025 conferred by President Droupadi Murmu on Friday.

Three other educators from Karnataka, including two maths professors from Kalaburagi and Udupi, and a professor of entrepreneurship from IIM Bangalore, were also among those who received the awards.

In all, 81 teachers from across India were conferred with the National Awards. Of these, 45 teachers received the awards by the Department of School Education & Literacy, 21 by the Department of Higher Education, and 15 by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Awardees from Karnataka

Madhusudan K S

- Madhusudan K S, Mysuru
- Dr Shreedevi Devindrappa Kalyan, Kalaburagi
- Srivardhini K Jha, professor IIM Bangalore

Among the awardees from Karnataka are Madhusudan K S, a teacher from a government school in Mysuru, Dr Shreedevi Devindrappa Kalyan, a faculty member of Mathematics at Sharnbasva University in Kalaburagi and Srivardhini K Jha, professor of Entrepreneurship at IIM Bangalore.

Madhusudan, a teacher from the Government Higher Primary School at Mysuru's Hinkal, made a C-Lounge in the school in 2023 – a makerspace which was equipped with robotics kits, a 3D printer, drone technology and AI tools. The space gave a platform for students to dabble in designing robots, work with drones and thereby develop sustainable projects like grey water purification systems.

Madhusudan said the idea of the C-Lounge was born out of his vision to create a space where students could go beyond textbooks and experience learning in a hands-on, engaging way.

"While teaching, I observed that children often understood concepts better when they experimented, created, and explored on their own. This inspired me to design a dedicated space where innovation meets curiosity," he said.

Madhusudan added that the C-Lounge became that platform which integrated STEM education, robotics, drones, AI and makerspace tools. "Every child, regardless of background, could bring their ideas to life. It is not just a lab, but a movement to bridge the gap between theory and practice," he told *DH*.

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UNITY IN FAITH

The Muslim community celebrates Prophet Muhammad's birthday with a vibrant Eid-e-Milad procession at Tannery Road on Friday. DH PHOTOS/PUSHKAR V

Growers welcome cut flower market shift to GKVK

But sellers sceptical about relocation from KR Market

SHRADDHA AK & SHREE DN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Amid confusion over the upcoming flower market at Gandhi Krishi Vijnan Kendra (GKVK) in Hebbal, growers and exporters have welcomed the plan, while city retailers remain sceptical.

Ramavathi, a street vendor from Padmanabhanagar, who makes garlands at KR Market, said accessibility is her main concern. "(KR Market) is close, and easily connected, the metro station is right next door. I do two pick-ups daily, morning and afternoon," she said. For vendors like her, relocation would mean lost convenience.

But exporters argue that the new facility will solve long-pending issues.

Rakshith Gowda, a merchant with International Flower Auction Bangalore Ltd (IFAB), said, "The sellers who come to KR Market at 2 am and leave by 7 am will shift to Hebbal. They lack basic infrastructure there. Roads flood when it rains, parking is absent, and traffic congestion is a nightmare. All these problems would be solved."

He added that GKVK is well-connected to the Yeshwantpur, Yelahanka, and Hebbal railway stations, with quick access to the airport. Unlike KR Market, which lacks cold storage, the new facility will include it, extending the shelf life of flowers.

Growers, too, see an opportunity. Murthy S, from Chikkaballapur, said, "Hebbal is just 45 minutes away. We can transport flowers directly to fetch a better price without middlemen."

Aravind TM, president of the South India Flower Association, said loose flowers meant for daily consumption will continue to be sold in Binny Mill and KR Market. "Cut flowers like roses, gerberas, and chrysanthemums, which are sent to other states, will move to GKVK," he said.

He also assured that existing trees at the site would be retained or transplanted.

Loose flower vendors inside KR Market. They sit near the entrance and make garlands because they do not have access to a reliable electricity supply, among other infrastructure.

'Fix KR Market'

GM Diwakar, president of the KR Market Flower Merchants' Association, said the controversy stems from confusion between cut and loose flowers.

Cut-flower vendors, who operate between 3 am and 6 am, had earlier been shifted to Binny Mill Market, but returned due to poor sales and transport problems. "They will now be moved to GKVK, not the entire local flower business," he clarified.

Yet, he opposed the move, citing environmental concerns.

"Relocating trees is not easy nor successful. If moving the market comes at a cost to the environment, it should not be done. Instead, the government should renovate KR Market with proper amenities and allot unused space on the second floor to cut-flower vendors."

For many, KR Market's poor infrastructure is a bigger grievance. Basic facilities like drinking water, toilets, and ventilation remain absent.

"I have been coming here for years to buy flowers at reasonable prices, but it is suffocating to stay inside for more than 20 minutes," said Varmahalakshmi, a garland vendor from Basaveshwaranagar.

Loading and unloading are a struggle. Traders are forced to use the basement parking entrance. "Otherwise, we would have to carry heavy sacks up the stairs," said vendor Ayiappa. First-time visitors find it hard to navigate entry and exit points, while frequent power cuts worsen the situation.

With growers cheering and retailers complaining, the government faces a balancing act: creating world-class infrastructure at GKVK while fixing long-neglected KR Market.

GBA's interactive map shows new corporation boundaries

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bangalore Authority (GBA) has launched an interactive map to help citizens view the boundaries of the five newly formed corporations that replaced the dissolved Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

The GBA also plans to install signages at key locations to raise awareness about the new corporations.

Citizens can access the GIS application at https://bbmp.gov.in/gisviewer/ index.html to view boundaries by assembly constituency or the earlier 198 wards.

Munish Moudgil, Special Commissioner (Administration, Revenue, and Information Technology), GBA, said a more user-friendly version would also be released on Dishank.

City set for rare red moon spectacle this weekend

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bengaluru will witness a rare spectacle this weekend as the moon turns red during a total lunar eclipse on the night of September 7 and 8.

Curiouscity Discovery Centre will host a viewing from 8 pm to 2 am.

This will be the year's last total lunar eclipse, and Bengaluru is expected to have one of the best views globally.

Telescopes and live commentary by Genex Space teachers and Curiouscity educators will accompany sessions on the science, myths, and stories of eclipses, making it more than just skywatching.

The highlight will be the totality phase, when the moon glows in copper and crimson hues from 11 pm to 12.22 am (IST).

For details, visit www.curiouscity.org or call 8317412923/9980314973.

Skywatchers in the city get a glimpse of the moon ahead of the total lunar eclipse on the night of September 7 and 8. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

1.4 kg ganja seized in Devanahalli

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Devanahalli police arrested two men for peddling ganja and seized 1.4 kg of the contraband worth Rs 55,000. They also recovered Rs 1,200, a weighing machine, and a two-wheeler from the suspects.

Acting on a tip-off on August 28, the police learnt that two people were selling drugs from a two-wheeler near Rani Cross in MR Layout. A raid was conducted, and the suspects, Deepak Kamti, 35, and Rohit Kumar, 23, both from Bihar, were taken into custody.

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Hirebenakal: 'The Ancient Settlement' photo exhibition by Dinesh Maneer, Manish S, Shilpa Hegde; Project Scott; Venkatappa Art Gallery; 11 am.

Goruru Memorial & Award Ceremony: Inauguration: Shivaraj Tangadagi; President: Wooday P Krishna; Goruru in Memories: Hampanagouda; LN Mukundaraj, Vasanthi Murthy Goruru, GN Srinivasan Goruru, Pratap Lingayya; Mahadev Desai Auditorium, Gandhi Bhavan; 10.30 am.

Statue unveiling of Jagajyoti Basaveshwara: Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji, Siddalinga Swamiji, Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji, DK Shivakumar, S Suresh Kumar, BS Yediyurappa, Shobha Karandlaje, MB Patil, Eshwar Khandre; Gopalayya; West of Chord Road; 3.30 pm.

CULTURAL

8th Janapada Maale: Folk music; Kunigal Ramachandra; LN Hanumantarayappa; Bishop Carmel English School; 9 am.

'Moorane Kivi': Play by Prof SR Ramesh; Rangashankara; 3.30 pm & 7 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	27.0°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	1.8 mm
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	77%
Sunset (Sep 6)	6:28 pm
Sunrise (Sep 7)	6:09 am
Moonrise	4:48 pm
Moonset	3:39 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

HC declines to quash probe against KAS officer in DA case

Court says 'case shrouded with huge corruption'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court has dismissed a petition filed by K Sudha, a Karnataka Administrative Service officer, and her husband Stroiny Joseph Pias, challenging proceedings in a disproportionate assets (DA) case.

Justice M Nagaprasanna observed that it is for the petitioners to prove their innocence in a full-fledged trial, as the case is "shrouded with huge corruption and prima facie, material available on the strength of enormous documents collected during the investigation".

An FIR was registered in 2020 when Sudha was Assistant Commissioner and Land Acquisition Officer of the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA).

The Lokayukta court ordered the probe on a complaint by activist TJ Abraham, who alleged that Sudha collected illegal gratification from property owners in various BDA layouts.

Sudha argued that no prior approval under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption (PC) Act was obtained before initiating the probe. She also cited the Priyanka Srivastava case to claim that the complaint was invalid as it lacked an affidavit showing compliance with CrPC Section 154(1) and 154(3).

The complainant said approval under Section 17A was accorded, and Special Public Prosecutor B Lethif, for the Lokayukta, argued that such approval was not required for disproportionate assets cases.

Justice Nagaprasanna held that offences alleged were under Section 13 of the PC Act, which does not require prior approval.

Referring to the Apex Court judgment in the Anurag Bhatnagar Vs NCT Delhi case, the court said that while ordinarily a private complaint must show compliance with CrPC Section 154(1) and 154(3), a magistrate may still order an investigation under Section 156(3).

Two interstate robbers held in Magadi Rd jewellery theft

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Rural police have arrested two members of an interstate gang in connection with the armed robbery of a jewellery shop on Magadi Road on July 24.

Three masked men, wearing monkey caps and one wielding a toy gun, stormed the shop and fled with jewellery and valuables, as per the complaint by shop owner, Kannayyalal Prajapat, and his assistant, Shailender.

Superintendent of Police (Bangalore Rural) CK Baba said, "Swift teamwork, technical intelligence inputs, and tireless field efforts helped us crack the armed robbery case where the inter-state gang of habitual offenders was involved."

The arrested men are Naushad of Dakshina Kannada and Mohammed Iftiqar of Bihar. They reportedly met in Parappana Agrahara jail and are habitual offenders. Naushad faces six cases, while Iftiqar has 16.

The police said the gang is active across Karnataka, Kerala, and Bihar. So far, jewellery worth over Rs 10 lakh, two cars, and Rs 2.5 lakh worth of copper wire have been recovered.

Efforts are on to nab two others still at large.

Tech tracking

The probe was challenging as the gang avoided mobile phones, making technical tracking difficult, the police added.

Two arrested for robbing cabbie

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Viveknagar police arrested two men and recovered a Swift Dzire car and three mobile phones worth Rs 8 lakh that were snatched from a cab driver early Wednesday.

The driver, a resident of Kamakshamma Layout, Yelahanka Old Town, said that two men on a two-wheeler blocked his car near the Ejipura signal on August 27, assaulted him, and fled with the vehicle and phones.

Acting swiftly, the police arrested Sreekanth, 23, and Hemanth Kumar, 27, of TC Palya on Thursday. They confessed to the crime.

23 cases filed as police target overstaying foreigners

BENGALURU, DHNS: The city police have launched a crackdown on foreign nationals overstaying visas, also registering cases against landlords who failed to comply with tenant registration rules.

So far, 23 cases have been booked, mainly against those whose passports and visas had expired, but who continued to reside and work in the city.

The action follows a directive from the DCP (Whitefield division) to enforce the Registration of Foreigners Act more strictly.

Most cases were filed in the city's eastern division: seven in Yelahanka, five in Kothanur, and three in Yelahanka New Town.

Kodigehalli and Chikkajala stations registered two each, while Amruthahalli, Bagalur, Sampigehalli, and Vidyaranyapura booked one case each.

The police said cases were filed not only against the foreign nationals, but also against landlords who failed to submit the mandatory 'Form-C,' which allows authorities to track foreign visitors. They warned that the drive will continue against violators.

Vendors gobble up city footpaths as pedestrians get pushed onto the road

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR & SHRADDHA AK
BENGALURU, DHNS

Every morning, 70-year-old Mrityunjayappa from Jayanagar 9th Block is forced to walk on the road instead of the footpath, which is occupied by makeshift eateries, cart vendors, and food trucks.

Darshinis and cafes often set up standing tables or convert footpaths into serving stations to save on rent.

At Jayanagar

Residents complain regularly, but little changes. Many allege eateries bribe officials to continue operating.

Once walker-friendly, Jayanagar's footpaths are now dominated by encroachers. On 33rd Cross Road, Jayanagar 4th T Block, several jewellery shops use footpaths as parking space.

Activist Vinay Srinivas noted that authorities target powerless street vendors but spare restaurants. "Even if action is taken, it remains temporary," he said.

At Banashankari

On 27th Cross, Banashankari II Stage, food trucks and fruit vendors block entire stretches, pushing pedestrians onto the road and putting them at risk.

The president of a residents' welfare association said, "Vendors scatter belongings across footpaths, spilling onto the road. It creates traffic jams and unsafe conditions for pedestrians and drivers."

The road, which has two hospitals, two hotels, and a tech park, connects south and east Bengaluru. Parked vehicles and encroachments worsen jams, with traffic often reduced to a choked flow. Some vendors chain their carts to footpaths and abandon them for months.

Authorities continue to trade blame, with the traffic police pointing to the civic body and vice versa.

At Indiranagar

Footpaths here have been turned into parking areas by eateries and their patrons. Bike showrooms display vehicles on them.

Activist Snehal Nandihal said, "Footpaths are always an issue in Indiranagar. They are either encroached, dug up by civic authorities, or missing. We have lodged several complaints against the eateries here."

At 27th Cross, Banashankari II Stage, footpaths have become permanent parking spaces. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

F.No. 16-14/2021-SIPDA
Government of India
Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment
Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan)
(Establishment Section)
5th Floor, B-1 Wing, Pt. Deen Dayal Antyodaya Bhawan,
CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003

Subject: Notice regarding engagement of CPMU Consultant in the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) on contract basis-regarding.

Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) invites applications from eligible individuals for contractual appointment in the Department as under:

S. No.	Detail of Post	Essential Qualifications	Experience	Monthly remuneration
1.	CPMU Consultant (14)	Graduate or Post Graduate in the field of (i) Engineering (especially Data Science, Computer Science, IT, Electronics) (ii) Commerce/Mathematics / Economics / Statistics (iii) Social Work/ Sociology / Psychology (iv) Public Administration / Political Science (v) Equivalent RCI Affiliated courses (Final Year passed out only)	Desirable - 1 year experience of working in Central Government/State Government/ Public Sector Undertakings (PSU), Autonomous Bodies/CPSEs. Proficiency in the usage of computer, strong presentation and communication (written & oral) skill is essential.	Consolidated remuneration of Rs.75,000/- per month.

2. Detailed information regarding eligibility criteria and other terms and conditions may be seen at Department's website: www.depwd.gov.in. Interested and eligible candidates may send their application in the prescribed proforma within 30 days from the date of publication in the Employment News to vacancyconsultant20@gmail.com.

3. Interested candidate may apply through mail at vacancyconsultant20@gmail.com in enclosed proforma addressed to **The Under Secretary (Estt. & Cash), Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Room No. 519, 5th Floor, B-II Wing, Pt. Deendayal Antyodaya Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003.**

Under Secretary to the Government of India

CBC 38117/11/0017/2526

CELEBRATING 50 YRS

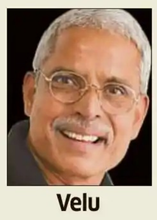
Lahari strikes golden note with 10,000-song talent hunt

PRANATI AS
BENGALURU, DHNS

Music label Lahari will celebrate its 50th year by releasing 10,000 new songs under the banner 'Lahari–MRT Music–Prayog Indian Classical Concert', a pan-India talent hunt to discover and showcase fresh voices.

Based in Bengaluru, Lahari is collaborating with Prayog Studio and streaming platform 'Only Kannada', both in Banashankari.

Grammy-winning musician Ricky Kej is the brand ambassador for the initiative, which aims to release the songs by April.



Velu

Lahari and its sister company MRT Music already hold a catalogue of 1.26 lakh songs across genres such as Carnatic, Hindustani, folk, sugama sangeeta, and film music, mainly in Kannada and other South Indian languages.

"We realised we have a lot of unrecognised music talent in the country. We want to give a platform for all languages and genres," said Lahari director Velu (Tulasiram Naidu).

Within a month, Lahari got Pradeep Mallur of Prayog Studio on board and recorded 1,400 Karnatik songs, with about 50 already released on MRT's YouTube channel.

Featured artistes include Shruthy BN, Ambika S Bhat, Karthik Mattur, Vaishnavi Madhusudhan, Sinchana Rao, and Chintapalli Manoja.

Velu likened the project to Purandaradasa's line "Kereya neeranu kerege chall" (Pour the water back into the lake), describing it as Lahari's way of giving back to the music community. Senior musicians will oversee the process.

Founded in April 1976 by Manohar Naidu, Lahari has grown into one of South India's best-known music labels, with MRT Music handling production and post-production.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ - ಜಲ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ

ಕನ್ನಡ ನಾಡಿನ ಪ್ರತಿಷ್ಠಿತ ಆಲಮಟ್ಟಿ ಅಣೆಕಟ್ಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ

ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮಟ್ಟಕ್ಕೆ ನೀರು ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಾದ ಪ್ರಯುಕ್ತ ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾದ

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ರವರು ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾದ

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್ ರವರಿಂದ ಕೃಷ್ಣೆಯ ಜಲಧಿಗೆ ಗಂಗಾಪೂಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಬಾಗಿನ ಅರ್ಪಣೆ

ದಿನಾಂಕ : 06.09.2025ನೇ ಶನಿವಾರ | ಸಮಯ : ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00ಗಂಟೆಗೆ | ಸ್ಥಳ : ಲಾಲ್ ಬಹಾದ್ದೂರ್ ಶಾಸ್ತ್ರಿ ಸಾಗರ, ಆಲಮಟ್ಟಿ , ನಿಡಗುಂದಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.

ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ಶಿವಾನಂದ ಎಸ್. ಪಾಟೀಲ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಜವಳಿ, ಕಬ್ಬು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸಕ್ಕರೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೃಷಿ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಚಿವರು
ಮತ್ತು ಹಾವೇರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರು

ಡಾ. ಎಂ.ಬಿ. ಪಾಟೀಲ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಬೃಹತ್ ಮತ್ತು ಮಧ್ಯಮ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೂಲಸೌಲಭ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಸಚಿವರು
ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರು

ಗೌರವ ಉಪಸ್ಥಿತಿ

ಶ್ರೀ ಆರ್.ಬಿ. ತಿಮ್ಮಾಪೂರ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಬಕಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರು ಮತ್ತು ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರು
ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಮೇಲ್ದಂಡೆ ಯೋಜನೆ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಸಲಹಾ ಸಮಿತಿ

ಶ್ರೀ ಎನ್.ಎಸ್. ಬೋಸರಾಜು ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ, ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಚಿವರು
ಹಾಗೂ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಉಸ್ತುವಾರಿ ಸಚಿವರು, ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ಮುಖ್ಯ ಅತಿಥಿಗಳು

ವಿಜಯಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ರವಿಕುಮಾರ್ ಎನ್ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್ತಿನ ವಿರೋಧ ಪಕ್ಷದ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಸಚೇತಕರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಪ್ರಕಾಶ ಬಿ. ಹುಕ್ಕೇರಿ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಶೇಷ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿ-2, ನವದೆಹಲಿ

ಶ್ರೀ ಅಪ್ಪಾಜಿ ಸಿ.ಎಸ್. ನಾಡಗೌಡ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ಮುದ್ದೇಬಿಹಾಳ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾಬೂನು ಮತ್ತು ಮಾರ್ಜಕ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಶ್ರೀ ರಮೇಶ. ಚಂ. ಜಿಗಜಿಣಗಿ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಲೋಕಸಭಾ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ವಿಜಯಪುರ

ಡಾ|| ಸುಧಾ ಮೂರ್ತಿ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಸಭಾ ಸದಸ್ಯರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಯಶವಂತರಾಯಗೌಡ ವಿ. ಪಾಟೀಲ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ಇಂಡಿ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಸನಗೌಡ ಆರ್. ಪಾಟೀಲ (ಯತ್ನಾಳ) ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ವಿಜಯಪುರ ನಗರ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ

ಶ್ರೀ ಸುನೀಲಗೌಡ ಬಿ. ಪಾಟೀಲ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್

ಶ್ರೀ ವಿಠ್ಠಲ ಧೋಂಡಿಬಾ ಕಟಕಧೋಂಡ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ನಾಗಠಾಣ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ

ಶ್ರೀ ಭೀಮನಗೌಡ (ರಾಜುಗೌಡ) ಬಿ. ಪಾಟೀಲ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ದೇವರಹಿಪ್ಪರಗಿ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ

ಶ್ರೀ ಅಶೋಕ ಮ. ಮನಗೂಳಿ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ಸಿಂಧಗಿ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ

ಶ್ರೀ ಕೇಶವಪ್ರಸಾದ ಎಸ್. ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್

ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಕಾಂತಾ ನಾಯ್ಕ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೌಶಲ್ಯಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಂಗಮೇಶ ಅಪ್ಪಾಸಿ ಬಬಲೇಶ್ವರ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಬಾಲವಿಕಾಸ ಅಕಾಡೆಮಿ ಧಾರವಾಡ

ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಕವಿತಾ ಮು.ಬಡಿಗೇರ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಆಲಮಟ್ಟಿ

ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ಹೆಚ್.ವೈ. ಮೇಟಿ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ

ಶ್ರೀ ಜೆ.ಟಿ. ಪಾಟೀಲ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ಬೀಳಗಿ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಹಟ್ಟಿ ಚಿನ್ನದ ಗಣಿ ಕಂಪನಿ ನಿಯಮಿತ

ಶ್ರೀ ವಿಜಯಾನಂದ ಎಸ್.ಕಾಶಪ್ಪನವರ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ಹುನಗುಂದ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವೀರಶೈವ ಲಿಂಗಾಯತ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿ.,

ಶ್ರೀ ಪಿ.ಸಿ. ಗದ್ದಿಗೌಡರ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಲೋಕಸಭಾ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ನಾರಾಯಣ ಕೆ. ಭಾಂಡಗೆ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಸಭಾ ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ

ಶ್ರೀ ಹಣಮಂತ ಆರ್. ನಿರಾಣಿ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದು ಸವದಿ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ತೇರದಾಳ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ

ಶ್ರೀ ಪಿ.ಎಚ್. ಪೂಜಾರ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್

ಶ್ರೀ ಜಗದೀಶ ಎಸ್. ಗುಡಗುಂಟಿ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ಜಮಖಂಡಿ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ

ಶ್ರೀ ಭೀಮಸೇನ ಬಿ. ಚಿಮ್ಮನಕಟ್ಟಿ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನಸಭೆ, ಬಾದಾಮಿ ಮತಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ

ಡಾ. ಉಮಾಶ್ರೀ ರವರು
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಶಾಸಕರು, ವಿಧಾನ ಪರಿಷತ್

ಶ್ರೀ ಗೌರವ್ ಗುಪ್ತ, ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ.
ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಪರ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ಜಲ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಕೃಷ್ಣಮೂರ್ತಿ ಬಿ. ಕುಲಕರ್ಣಿ, ಕೆ.ಇ.ಎಸ್.
ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು, ಜಲ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಸರ್ವರಿಗೂ ಆದರದ ಸುಸ್ವಾಗತ

ಶ್ರೀ ಕೆ.ಪಿ. ಮೋಹನ್ ರಾಜ್ ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ.
ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ

ಬಸವರಾಜ್ ಡಿ, ಐಇ
ಮುಖ್ಯ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್, ಕೃಷ್ಣಾ ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಜಲ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಆಣೆಕಟ್ಟು ವಲಯ, ಆಲಮಟ್ಟಿ

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- Diagnostic Kits & Reagents
- Corrective Spectacles
- Surgical/Medical Examination Rubber Gloves

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Women activists seek Sonia's intervention

BENGALURU, PTI

A group of women from diverse fields, including actor-theatre activist Arundhati Nag, filmmakers Kavita Lankesh and Suman Kittur, writer-journalist Vijayamma, have written to senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, urging her to ensure that the inquiry into a series of unsolved crimes in Dharmasthala must focus exclusively on delivering justice to women and other victims.

Called "Kondavaru Yaaru? Who Killed the Women in Dharmasthala?", the campaign by the group of women seeks to bring the focus back to the issue of justice for the victims and dismantling deep-seated structures that perpetuate such violence against women.

"Unfortunately, not even a few weeks into the investigation, the matter has become the subject of intense and often salacious media coverage and political grandstanding. As a result, what should have been a moment for truth and accountability has instead spiralled into intimidatory tactics and attempts to bury justice once again," read the letter to Gandhi, dated September 4 and signed by nearly 50 women personalities.

The letter pointed out that the reports in the media have been consistently hinting at possible "systematic abuse, murder, rape, and unexplained deaths involving women and students". Local activists and journalists in Dakshina Kannada (DK) and women's rights organisations across the state have also been raising concerns and protesting about the deaths and unnatural disappearances for years now, in particular Soujanya case in 2012, Padmalatha case in 1986 and Vedavalli case in 1979, read the letter.

What does Sonia know?: Somanna

CHIKKABALLAPURA,DHNS: In the wake of women's outfits seeking former AICC president Sonia Gandhi's intervention into the ongoing probe into alleged mass burials at Dharmasthala, Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna on Friday said, "What does Sonia Gandhi know about Dharmasthala? The only thought in her mind is to make her son, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi the Prime Minister."

He hinted at the possibility of women's outfits being prodded by vested interests to seek Sonia's intervention into the Dharmasthala dispute.

"Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his team look as if they are completely worn out. It is possible that this appeal to Sonia Gandhi may have been done at the behest of those upset with Deputy CM D K Shivakumar," quipped Somanna, while reaffirming his regard for Sonia Gandhi.

Dharmasthala case: SIT continues to grill activists, YouTuber

Probe team chief Pronab Mohanty visits Belthangady

MANGALURU, DHNS

Special Investigation Team (SIT) chief and DGP (Internal Security Division) Pronab Mohanty visited the SIT office in Belthangady on Friday and held discussions with the team regarding the ongoing investigation into the alleged Dharmasthala mass burial case.

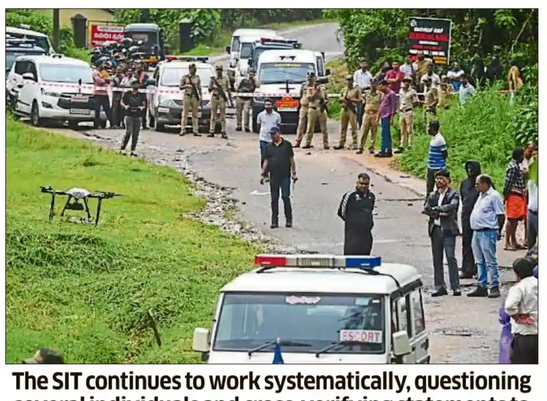
Sources confirmed that several individuals, including activists T Jayant, Girish Mattannavar, and YouTuber Abhishek, were questioned and their statements recorded as part of the investigation.

SIT sources told *DH* that multiple individuals are being summoned daily to collect information and cross-verify facts related to the case.

"Several people are being questioned and their statements recorded to build a clearer picture of the events. The aim is to leave no loose ends," the sources said.

Friday's investigation was conducted in the presence of SIT chief Mohanty.

When asked about potential arrests, SIT sources clarified that Jayant, Mattannavar, and Abhishek have not been arrested so far. However, the possibility of their arrest has not been ruled out.



The SIT continues to work systematically, questioning several individuals and cross-verifying statements to uncover the truth behind the alleged Dharmasthala mass burial case. DH FILE PHOTO

"The final decision depends on the outcome of the ongoing interrogation of several individuals connected to the case. Nothing can be concluded at this stage," the sources added.

The SIT continues to work systematically, questioning several individuals and cross-verifying statements to uncover the truth behind the alleged mass burial case, the sources said.

Notice to Kerala YouTuber

Meanwhile, the SIT has issued a notice to YouTuber Munaf from Kozhikode, directing him to appear before it.

The notice stated that since he is acquainted with the facts and circumstances of the case, he must appear in person with all available evidence, including electronic records, documents, and other information, if any.

The complainant-witness had produced a skull before the court in connection with the Dharmasthala mass burial case.

Munaf's YouTube channel had shown footage of a skull being picked up and placed into a bag on July 11.

Munaf, who owns the YouTube channel Lorry Udama Manaf, had earlier come into the spotlight during last year's landslide in Shirur, Uttara Kannada district, where a lorry was buried under debris. After several days, the lorry was retrieved and the body of its driver, Arjun, was found inside, according to sources.

Four-year RI, Rs 10K fine for 2 govt officials for bribery

DHARWAD, DHNS: The Third Additional District and Sessions and Special Court has convicted two government officials on bribery charges and sentenced them to rigorous imprisonment.

Under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, each has been sentenced to four years of imprisonment and fined Rs 10,000. Under Section 13(1)(d) read with Section 13(2) of the Act, each has been sentenced to five years of imprisonment and fined Rs 10,000.

The convicted officials are Madhukar Ghodake, Assistant Controller at the Legal Metrology Department, and S N Leelavati, SDA.

The first accused, Madhukar Ghodake, had demanded a bribe from complainant Gokul Saudagar and his friend Sunil Bakale. Through the third accused, fingerprint technician Raghavendra Yalavatti, he accepted a bribe of Rs 10,000.

The second accused, Leelavati, instigated the complainant to pay the bribe. Thus, all three accused were found to be part of the offence. While receiving the bribe of Rs 10,000 in return for performing an official duty, they were caught red-handed in a trap laid by Dharwad Lokayukta ACB Police.

The then inspector, Pramod Yaligar of Lokayukta ACB, investigated the case and filed the charge sheet before the court.

Special Public Prosecutor S S Shivalli argued the case on behalf of the state, Lokayukta SP S T Siddalingappa said.

Complaint against activist Vasanth Giliyar

MYSURU, DHNS: An activist from Mysuru has filed complaint against Udupi-based journalist and activist Vasanth Giliyar for stoking communal tension, while also resorting to character assassination with regard to Dharmasthala case.

Director of Odanadi organisation Stanley has filed a complaint against Giliyar at Vijayanagar police station. Stanley alleged that Giliyar was not only creating unrest between faiths but had also targeted him personally. The Police have filed an FIR.

In the complaint, Stanley states, "A social movement is underway across Karnataka, demanding justice for the kidnapping, rape, and murder of Soujanya in Dharmasthala village. Odanadi organisation, which works for women's rights, is holding a protest within the law. However, Giliyar has identified me as a Christian and is alleging that I have come to destroy the Hindu religion and its temples, on social media".

'YouTubers offered funds to share content against Dharmasthala'

MANDYA, DHNS

A Mandya-based YouTuber has alleged that a few fellow YouTubers had been offered funds to share content against Dharmasthala.

Sumanth, a native of Thoppanahalli in Maddur taluk, said, "A conspiracy has been hatched against Dharmasthala, and the YouTubers who promote it have been funded. I also received an offer for this kind of promotion, earlier." "This plan was made two years ago under the guise of protests seeking justice for Soujanya. I figured out the conspiracy and refused the paid-promotion. As soon as a case was filed against Sameer, another YouTuber, some people stood in his support. A Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe should be conducted against those who are luring the YouTubers," Sumanth demanded.

Meanwhile, Srirangaptna MLA Ramesh Bandisiddegowda has lauded the steps taken by the Karnataka government regarding the Dharmasthala issue.

"Our state government has done well by forming the SIT. The stigma against Dharmasthala has been cleared and the glory and tradition of the kshetra has been upheld. The investigation has been conducted in such a way that no one can try to taint either Dharmasthala's Lord Manjunatha or Annappa Swamy again," Ramesh added.

"If the SIT investigation had not been done, people would have criticised Chief Minister Siddaramaiah as a 'secularist'. They would have also blamed Deputy CM D K Shivakumar, who has good faith in God. There is no substance in the opposition's demand to hand over this case to the National Investigation Agency (NIA)," the MLA added.

Two students drown in Cauvery near S'patna

MYSURU, DHNS: Two students from a Bengaluru-based college reportedly drowned in River Cauvery near Edamuri Falls in Srirangapatna taluk of Mandya district, on Friday.

The deceased were identified as William Shyam (21) and Venkatesh (21), both BBA students. They had come along with 5 other students for picnic.

The personnel from Department of Fire and Emergency Services, led by Ambarish Uppar, fished out the bodies.

The KRS police have registered a case. The bodies were handed over to the relatives after autopsy.

Boy dies after air gun goes off accidentally in Sirsi

SIRSI (UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT), DHNS: A nine-year-old boy received a pellet in his chest after his brother accidently pressed the trigger of an air gun held by a caretaker at Somanahalli on the outskirts of Sirsi on Friday.

The incident occurred when children of Basappa Undiyar, a native of Haveri district and the farm worker, were playing at the farm. The farm is owned by Raghavendra Keshav Hegde of Somanahalli.

According to police, "Nitish Gowda who was appointed by the villagers to curb monkey menace, had come to the farm along with the air gun owned by Hegde. A seven-year-old boy pulled the trigger unintentionally. The pellet from the gun hit nine-year-old Kariyappa in his chest. killing him on the spot."

The Sirsi police have registered a case against the farm owner Raghavendra Hegde and Nitish Gowda.

'DAM'N GOOD

All 26 crest gates of Almatti reservoir were lit up in tricolour as the water surges in full glory. The reservoir, the lifeline of several north Karnataka districts, reached its full reservoir level on Thursday. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will offer bagina to the Krishna river on Saturday. DH PHOTO

Corrigendum

In the article titled 'Ready to go to jail for Bidadi township: DKS' published on September 5, the headline and the report incorrectly stated that Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar was ready to go to jail over the Bidadi township project. The correct statement should have read 'Not ready to go to jail for Bidadi township: DKS'. We regret the inadvertent error.

-Editor

GO: Treat accident victims immediately

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government has issued an order to all private and government hospitals to immediately carry out first aid and necessary medical screening for accident victims free of cost.

The accident victims include road accident victims, burn injury cases, poisoning, criminal assault, any medico-legal cases, or possible medico-legal cases.

In case of accidents, when the victims arrive at the hospital, they should do whatever is possible to stabilise the patient and minimise the risk of death. If the hospital does not have the potential to do so, the hospital, with all the medical records of the patients, should transfer them to a hospital with all the facilities required by the patients immediately.

The government also ordered that any delay in treatment due to payment issues and if the patient passes away, it will be considered medical negligence, and criminal proceedings will be initiated against the hospital, and a fine of Rs 10,000 will be slapped for a first-time offence and up to Rs 5 lakh for a serial offence. It might be extended to revoke the licence of the hospital.

According to The Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, section 134 (a), all medical practitioners and doctors on duty in the hospital will immediately attend to the injured person and render treatment without waiting for any formalities.

SC asks K'taka HC to decide first charge among EPFO & banks over defaulter's assets

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court has asked the Karnataka High Court to decide the priority of first charge amongst the EPFO and the secured creditors, the Axis Bank and other two banks, over the money received from sale of properties of an establishment which defaulted in deposit of provident fund dues.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath, Sanjay Karol and Sandeep Mehta set aside the High Court's order of February 1, 2024, which rejected a plea by M/s Edelweiss Asset Reconstruction Limited.

The appellant, EARC led by senior advocate Krishnan Venugopal admitted that the dues of EPFO have a first charge. However, it contended that the Axis Bank has sold one property for Rs 12 crore approximately whereas, appellant has sold two properties for total consideration of Rs 7 crore. It said, the balance amount of EPFO may be recovered from the Axis Bank as EARC has already paid an amount of Rs 75 lakh, proportionate to the sale consideration received by it.

It said the balance amount due to the EPFO which apparently has been stayed by the High Court for the amount quantified under Section 14(B) of the PF Act amounting to Rs 1.3 crore approximately would fall in proportionate share of the Axis Bank.

The recovery for the balance amount if ultimately EPFO succeeds before the High Court for its demand under Section 14(B) of the PF Act should be made from Axis Bank and not from the appellant, it said.

The EPFO, represented by advocate Dushyant Parashar, said the High Court has rightly dismissed the petition of the appellant and, therefore, it is entitled to recover the balance amount of Rs 3,43,629 and the amount of Rs 1.3 crores approximately quantified under Section 14(B) of the PF Act, as and when, the EPFO succeeds before the High Court.

It further submitted that the appellant had not impleaded Axis Bank before the High Court and, therefore, the contention of the appellant that balance recovery may be made from Axis Bank with respect to the amount quantified under Section 14(B) of the PF Act cannot be sustained.

The Axis Bank, led by senior advocate Gopal Jain, submitted in view of the provisions contained in Section 35 of the SARFAESI, the dues of the Bank being secured would have a priority over the sales taxes and other dues payable to the government or local authority and, therefore, no recovery can be made from it till such time its entire dues are liquidated and satisfied.

After hearing the counsel, the bench said, "In our considered opinion, it would be appropriate that the High Court first deals with the issues raised by Axis Bank that it has first charge and priority over and above the EPFO to satisfy its dues from the secured property in view of Section 35 of the SARFAESI Act."

"The High Court will take into consideration, the relevant fact relating to the charge having been created by the EPFO over the properties to be auctioned by the Axis Bank prior to the auction," the bench said.

"All the parties to the writ petition as it would stand now after remand would be at liberty to raise all contentions before the High Court," the bench said.

The dispute arose after M/s Acropetal Technologies Pvt Ltd, covered under the ambit of Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, defaulted in payment of provident fund dues since July, 2013.

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No.2, Nagpur
E-mail: div2nagpur.ee@mahapwd.com Telephone No. 0712-2565048

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. 23/ 2025-2026

Online E-tenders in **'B-1' Forms** are invited by **Executive Engineer, Public Works Division No. 2, "Bandhkam Sankul" Civil Lines, Nagpur** for the following works from the registered contractor who satisfy the qualifying criteria. The tender documents should be downloaded from the Government Website https://mahatenders.gov.in The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders. Conditional tenders will not be accepted.

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2	Construction of cement concret road leading from the Water Treatment Plant to the Goushala at Shri Sati Anusaya Mata Sansthan, Paradsinga in Taluka Katol Dist Nagpur	Rs. 97.56 Lakh
3	Improvement of the road Chikhali Kajali in Tahasil Katol Distt. Nagpur	Rs. 100.00 Lakh
4	Construction of the road from National Highway No.6 to Jamgadh (VR-106) in Tahasil Narkhed Distt.Nagpur	Rs. 100.00 Lakh
5	Construction of the road Sonoli Bori (VR-33) in Tahasil Katol Distt.Nagpur	Rs. 99.87 Lakh
6	Improvement to Ashti to Kawatha road remaining line Km. 0/900 to 1/700 (VR-78) in Taluka Saoner Distt. Nagpur	Rs. 50.00 Lakh
7	Construction of Kalmeshwar Kalambi road Earthwork and Murum work (VR-192) Taluka Kalmeshwar Distt. Nagpur	Rs. 50.00 Lakh
8	Construction of remaining length Kalmeshwar Sahuli road (VR-194) Taluka Kalmeshwar Distt. Nagpur	Rs. 50.00 Lakh
9	Improvement to road from Kelwad to Kawtha Km. 2/00 to 4/00 (VR-66) in Taluka Saoner Dist Nagpur	Rs. 100.00 Lakh
10	Construction of Kothurna to Chicholi road Km.0/00 to 2/500 (VR-118) in Taluka Saoner Dist Nagpur	Rs. 50.00 Lakh
11	Construction of road (VR-139) from Khapri (Kothe) to Katol road, Connecting to Panchmukhi Hanuman Temple Gate in Taluka Kalmeshwar Distt. Nagpur	Rs. 80.00 Lakh
12	Construction of Kocchi to Badegaon village (VR-66) from Km. 1/500 to 3/00 in Taluka Saoner Dist Nagpur	Rs. 50.00 Lakh
13	S.T.B.T. to Waki Dargah approach road Km.0/00 to 1/00 (VR-128) 50.00 in Taluka Saoner Dist Nagpur	Rs. 50.00 Lakh
14	Construction of Pedesital, Garden beautification, Paving Block, Water Foutain and Beautification at Gandhi Chowk Tahasil Saoner Distt.Nagpur	Rs. 75.00 Lakh
15	Construction of Talathi offices at Tahasil Narkhed Dist. Nagpur. (Name of Talathi Office:- Rohana, Dawasa, Thadipawani, Belona, Kharsoll, Khairgaon, Loharisawanga, Bhishnoor, Narkhed, Yenikoni, Mohdi (Dalvi.), Pimpalgaon (V.), Yerla, Manikwada, Datewadi, Devgram, Wiwra, Singarkheda, Khapa, Kharashi, Jamgaon (Khurd), Arambi, Ambada (Sonak.), Mohgaon (Bha.), Malapur (2nd. Call)	Rs. 287.00 Lakh
16	Construction of road & raised causeway on Saoner Patansawangi Hanuman Tekadi Belori road (VR-146) in Km.0/00 to 2/500 in Taluka Saoner Distt. Nagpur	Rs. 100.00 Lakh

१	ई–निविदा उपलब्ध कालावधी	As per e–tender schedule uploaded on e–portal
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CM's official car booked for seven traffic violations

Fines paid under discount scheme

BENGALURU, DHNS

Six of the seven violations were for the chief minister not wearing a seat belt while travelling in the front seat of the vehicle.

The official Toyota Fortuner used by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has been found violating traffic rules on seven occasions since the beginning of 2024, according to the city's Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS). Traffic police sources confirmed that fines for all seven violations have now been paid.

Six of the seven violations were for the chief minister not wearing a seat belt while travelling in the front seat of the vehicle. These violations were recorded at various key junctions in the city, with the fines settled at Rs 2,500, a figure calculated after applying the state government's recent 50 per cent discount on traffic penalties.

The series of seat belt violations began on January 24, 2024, when the car was caught on camera near the Leela Palace junction on Old Airport Road. Further instances of the seat belt rule being flouted were registered at the same junction in February and August, at the Chandrika Hotel junction in March, and at both Sivananda Circle and Dr Rajkumar junctions in August. In addition to the seat belt infractions, the Chief Minister's car was also recorded by the ITMS for a speeding violation on July 9 along the Kempegowda International Airport Express Corridor.

An official from the traffic police department confirmed that the fine on the vehicle has since been cleared.

SASTRA's dean receives National Teachers' Award

President Droupadi Murmu felicitates Dr Shankar Sriram with the National Teachers' Award while Dharmendra Pradhan looks on.

Dr Shankar Sriram, Dean and Professor of Computing, SASTRA Deemed University, received the National Teachers' Award from Droupadi Murmu, President of India, at a glittering function to honour teachers at Vignan Bhavan, New Delhi, yesterday. The award carries a certificate of honour, medal and Rs 25,000.

Awards were presented to 21 teachers from around the country.

Narendra Modi, Prime Minister, interacted with the award-winning teachers over dinner hosted by Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for Education, who also attended the event.

Curated by DH Brandspot

CM got clean chit in MUDA case 'deceitfully': Vijayendra

CHITRADURGA, PTI: Karnataka BJP president B Y Vijayendra on Friday alleged that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah "knows he is an offender" in the MUDA site allotment case, claiming the clean chit given to him was obtained "deceitfully."

The Karnataka cabinet on Thursday accepted the Justice P N Desai Commission report, which exonerated Siddaramaiah and his family in the case concerning alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

The commission, headed by the former High Court judge, had submitted its findings to Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh on July 31.

"I have seen reports about the CM being given a clean chit in the MUDA case. If Siddaramaiah had not done anything wrong, he wouldn't have returned 14 sites to MUDA. People are saying he has taken a clean chit deceitfully," Vijayendra told reporters here.

He said, "If Siddaramaiah were honest, he should have resigned by now. He is dreaming about breaking Devaraj Urs's record as CM. Let anyone give him a clean chit in the MUDA case—his conscience knows the truth. He knows he is an offender." According to officials, the commission exonerated the CM and his wife Parvathi, finding no illegality in the allotment of 14 plots to her in exchange for 3.16 acres of her land at Kesare village in Mysuru, which MUDA had used to form a layout.

GST hike fuels fears among areca traders

Areca, from Page 1

This would leave cooperatives such as the Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Co-operative Ltd (CAMPCO) and MAMCOS in the lurch.

Fearing such an outcome, MAMCOS is considering taking a delegation of office-bearers to Delhi to meet Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Mixed reactions

There is no uniformity among traders on how the hike will pan out.

Former Union Minister G M Siddeshwara, who is also an arecanut trader, was confident that the hike "will not affect growers or traders".

"Most drivers, especially lorry drivers, chew pan masala to avoid drowsiness while driving. The hike in GST will have little impact," he said.

In Sirsi, Totgars' Cooperative Sale Society (TSS) Chairman Gopalakrishna Vaidya said it was too early to predict the impact, adding that "if imports are restricted, prices may not fall".

Trader Satish Bhat, who heads the Sirsi Areca Sellers' and Workers' Association, predicted a fall of around Rs 6,000 per quintal due to the GST hike, while Shivamogga Arecanut Growers' Association president Ramesh Hegde warned of long-term risks.

MAMCOS vice-president Mahesh H S Hulkuli flagged another concern, claiming that more than 90% of arecanut is traded through private channels without tax receipts.

"If unauthorised trading is not curbed, the rate of arecanut will fall drastically. We had urged the Centre to reduce GST on authorised arecanut trade from 18% to 5% to boost revenue," he said.

Uttara Kannada MP Vishweshwar Hegde Kageri urged patience, saying fear of a price fall is only an "assumption now".

View from coastal Karnataka

Agricultural economist Vigneshwar Varmudi, based in Dakshina Kannada, said the tax hike would not affect the chali variety cultivated in Dakshina Kannada and Udupi. "As much as 75 to 80% of high-quality chali nuts go into traditional paan chewing," he said.

Varmudi noted that consumers in Gujarat and Maharashtra prefer chali for its wood-like consistency, aroma and lingering flavour.

All India Arecanut Growers' Association president Mahesh Puchchappady said fruit rot disease had already damaged over half the crop in the coastal belt, keeping prices high. He, however, warned of long-term pressures due to GST on inputs such as copper sulphate.

'Not unconstitutional': Ballot papers will be used for B'luru civic polls...

Ballot papers, from Page 1

"SEC is a Constitutional body, which has the same powers as EC," he pointed out.

"The EVMs that we have are over 15 years old. The Election Commission has directed us to dispose them of. We're forming an internal expert committee to discuss with BEL the process of disposing of the EVMs," Sangreshi said.

Sangreshi said the switch to ballot papers "should not be" a challenge.

"Gram panchayat elections still use ballot papers. Voters in gram panchayats are the same in zilla panchayats and taluk panchayats. So, voters in rural areas have knowledge about ballot papers. What's wrong with switching to ballot papers? It's not unconstitutional," he said. Sangreshi added that the SEC will prepare electoral rolls in a "transparent and confidence-inspiring manner".

Dasara website launched

MYSURU, DHNS: The district administration launched the Dasara website https://mysoredasara.gov.in on Friday.

People can purchase tickets/gold cards for Dasara Jamboo Savari procession and Torchlight parade here.

They can even avail all the details of the Dasara events, Dasara executive committee and Dasara sub-committees here.

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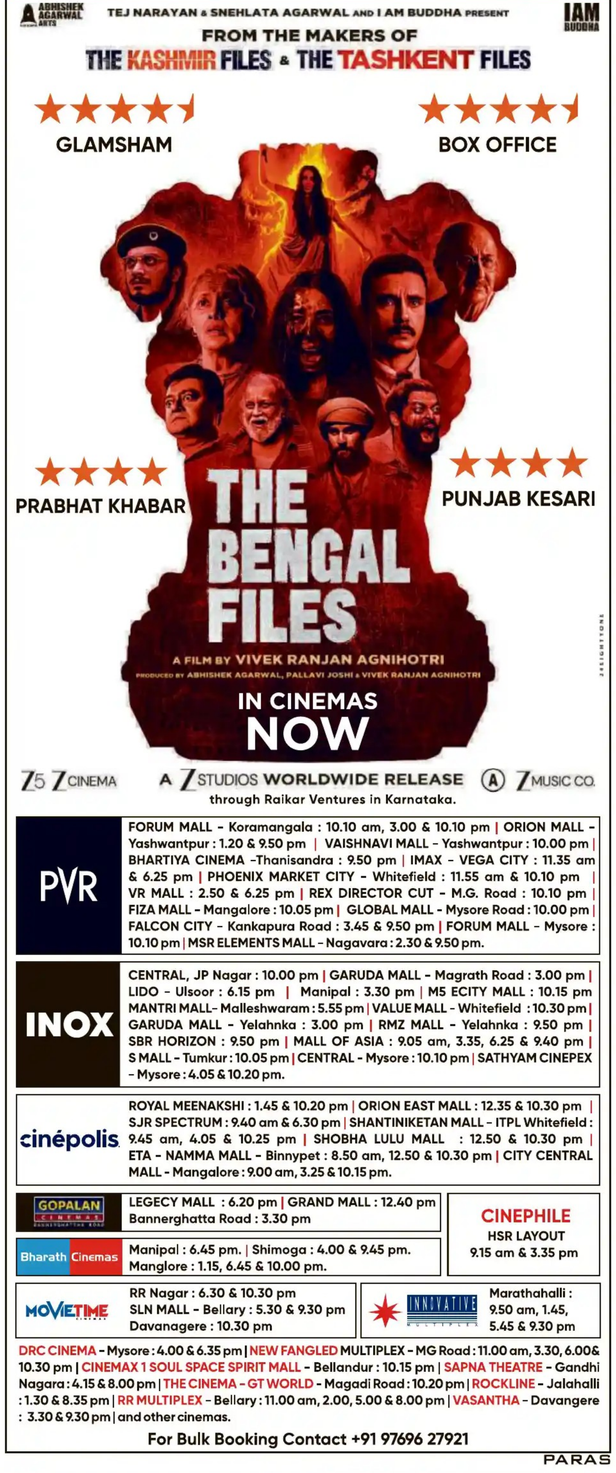
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GOPALAN CINEMAS
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HSR LAYOUT
9.15 am & 3.35 pm
Bharath Cinemas
Manipal : 6.45 pm. | Shimoga : 4.00 & 9.45 pm. Manglore : 1.15, 6.45 & 10.00 pm.
MOVIETIME
RR Nagar : 6.30 & 10.30 pm SLN MALL - Bellary : 5.30 & 9.30 pm Davanagere : 10.30 pm
INNOVATIVE
Marathahalli : 9.50 am, 1.45, 5.45 & 9.30 pm
DRC CINEMA - Mysore : 4.00 & 6.35 pm | NEW FANGLED MULTIPLEX - MG Road : 11.00 am, 3.30, 6.00 & 10.30 pm | CINEMAX 1 SOUL SPACE SPIRIT MALL - Bellandur : 10.15 pm | SAPNA THEATRE - Gandhi Nagara : 4.15 & 8.00 pm | THE CINEMA - GT WORLD - Magadi Road : 10.20 pm | ROCKLINE - Jalahalli : 1.30 & 8.35 pm | RR MULTIPLEX - Bellary : 11.00 am, 2.00, 5.00 & 8.00 pm | VASANTHA - Davangere : 3.30 & 9.30 pm | and other cinemas.
For Bulk Booking Contact +91 97696 27921
PARAS

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

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CORRIGENDUM
PUBLIC NOTICE

Dated Shillong, the 3rd September, 2025
No.EDN.46/2025/41:- Please read

1. **"In compliance with the Supreme Court's order upholding the dissolution order of 2014, no verification, authentication, or validation of degrees will be carried out. The validity of any degree issued on/after 2014 shall be subject to the outcome of the Review Petition Diary No. 13271 of 2025 by the Hon'ble Supreme Court"** instead of **"In compliance with the Supreme Court's order of 2014, no verification, authentication, or validation of degrees will be carried out. Any degrees issued in/after 2014 shall stand invalid, as the University could not have had any students continuing in view of the stay order of Supreme Court"** as appeared in the second paragraph under 'Key Information for the 'Public to Note' of the Public Notice No.EDN.46/2025/31, dated 20th August, 2025.

2. The administrator of CMJ University informs the public that the last date for receiving queries, grievances, and claims related to CMJ University has been extended to the 30th September, 2025.

Sd/-(Shri. D. Lyngdoh)
Joint Secretary to the Govt, of Meghalaya,
Education Department & Administrator of CMJ University, Meghalaya

MIPR No. 1561
Date: 04.09.2025

DH
CHANGEMAKERS
TO WATCH IN
2026

Nominations Open

Each year, DH recognises extraordinary people who persevere and overcome difficult odds to usher in change.

Since the DH Changemaker awards were launched in 2019, we have identified 150-plus trailblazers from across Karnataka in areas such as community empowerment, health, conservation, entrepreneurship, and the arts.

This year, it is time to begin our search for 15 Changemakers -- we seek to highlight their efforts, celebrate their achievements, and share their stories. On New Year's Day in 2026, we will publish print, web and video stories about these achievers.

We invite nominations from readers starting today. Send in details of individuals (below 45) and teams that you think deserve the Changemakers title and honour.

The last date for submitting nominations is September 18, 2025. Scan the QR code to make a nomination.

Dissolve Assembly if you doubt EVMs, BJP tells Congress

Siddu, DKS defend ballot paper move; Suresh Kumar calls it 'regressive'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The opposition BJP on Friday asked Congress to dissolve the Assembly and face fresh polls, saying the government has expressed suspicion about the same Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) that were used in the 2023 Assembly election that it won.

The BJP was reacting to the government's decision to switch to ballot papers for all local body elections, citing lack of trust in EVMs.

"If this government has doubts about EVMs, I think the reasonable option was to dissolve the Assembly and go for fresh elections," senior BJP lawmaker S Suresh Kumar, a former parliamentary affairs minister, said.

Reintroducing ballot papers is a "regressive" move, Kumar said. "The government's decision is an insult to the enlightened voter of this country. This is being done just to impress (the Congress high command) and dance to their tunes," he said.

Kumar pointed out that Congress came to power twice at the Centre after EVMs were introduced. "Congress also won in several states," he said, adding that Rahul Gandhi won from Amethi and Wayanad in EVM-based polls.

He asked Law Minister H K Patil to explain the basis of his statement that the government's decision to bring back ballot papers was based on public sentiment. "Has the government conducted any survey of citizens on EVMs?" he said.

Kumar also warned against the disadvantages of ballot papers. "I've seen ballot papers when I became a councillor (in 1983 and 1990) and MLA (1994). Counting of votes happens overnight. Also, EVMs have saved lakhs of trees. Plus, ballot boxes used to get stolen," he said.

Attacking the government, BJP state president B Y Vijayendra charged that Congress was "an expert" in electoral irregularities involving ballot papers. BJP general secretary V Sunil Kumar surmised that ballot papers were being introduced to delay local body polls, fearing defeat.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar defended the government's decision. "Our intention is to use ballot paper. We've decided on ballot papers based on our experience. There are examples of several countries that have returned to ballot paper from EVMs," Siddaramaiah said.

Asking the BJP why it was worried, Shivakumar said: "There's a provision in law, enacted during their (BJP) tenure, that either ballot or EVM can be used. We've decided to use ballot papers."

Congress general secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala hailed the government's decision as one that "restores voters' confidence" amidst "numerous doubts and questions" on EVMs.

S SURESH KUMAR
BJP MLA

"The government's decision is an insult to the enlightened voters of this country. This is being done just to impress (the Congress high command) and dance to their tunes.

SIDDARAMAIAH
Chief Minister

"Our intention is to use ballot paper. We've decided on ballot papers based on our experience. There are examples of several countries that have returned to ballot paper from EVMs.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah administers the preamble of the Constitution at the Teachers' Day programme in Bengaluru on Friday. Ministers Dr M C Sudhakar, Madhu Bangarappa and MLC Puttanna take part in the event.

Wean kids off mobiles, get them to pick up a book, CM tells teachers

Belief in superstition a betrayal of education: Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday asked teachers to launch a programme aimed at weaning children off cell phones.

Siddaramaiah, participating in an event organised by the government to celebrate Teacher's Day, said, "Mobile addiction among children has increased. Teachers must work effectively to bring children outside. All of you teachers must launch, "Drop the mobile – Hold the Book" programme at every school."

The CM also underscored the role of parents in instilling the habit of reading among children.

Pointing out that the Department of School Education had launched "Drop the Mobile-Hold the Book" programme, Siddaramaiah stressed the importance of ensuring its effective implementation.

"Children are spending more time on mobile phones. This is not good for their health and for their overall development," he added.

Siddaramaiah pointed to the need to educate children such that they responded to the problems ailing society. " Education is not just about filling vessels. Teachers must impart education that cultivates rational and scientific thinking in children," he opined.

"The Constitution has given everyone the right to compulsory education. That is why, since coming to power, we are working to interpret the Preamble of the Constitution. If we adopt constitutional values in life, we can create humane citizens. Teachers must understand this and shape a civil society," said the CM.

"Practising caste discrimination and superstition even after being educated is a betrayal of education. Therefore, it is the moral and professional responsibility of teachers to provide education that embraces philosophical thinking, instils scientific temperament, and religious tolerance. Doctors, professors, and lecturers still believe in fate. Then what kind of education did they receive," he asked.

Awards were presented to the best teachers and lecturers selected from the School Education and PU departments. Principals of degree colleges that recorded impressive NAAC rankings were felicitated.

Free note books

Responding to demand by the teachers to provide free note books, Siddaramaiah said he will try to implement it from the next academic year.

Recalling his association with one of his teachers, the CM said, "I learned school education from Rajappa Master and political lessons from Prof Nanjundaswamy. As a student, I didn't have the strength or opportunity to eat food daily at home. I launched the Anna Bhagya scheme so that no one else faces such a situation. I implemented Vidyasiri to provide hostel facilities."

'Will appoint 18,000 teachers soon'

Minister for School Education Madhu Bangarappa said that 18,000 teacher posts will be filled soon, while adding that the government would introduce moral education in a month.

With AI, teachers must transform, says Sadhguru

BENGALURU, DHNS: Spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev on Friday said teachers must brace for the age of Artificial Intelligence (AI), which he warned could make information stored in one's head "lose relevance".

He was addressing teachers at the 'Buddy Bench' conversation hosted by educationist Aisshwarya DKS Hegde.

"You must be more joyful, more agile, more exuberant than the child, then they will want to be like you. You have books in your head, but in another 3-5 years, books in the head will mean nothing. So before that, you have to transform yourselves in such a way that you become powerhouses of inspiration for the child," Sadhguru said.

Spiritual leader Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev takes part in a discourse on education with educationist Aisshwarya DKS Hegde in Bengaluru on Friday. DH PHOTO

ONAM CELEBRATIONS

Women make a pookalam (floral rangoli) as part of Onam celebrations in Chikkamagaluru on Friday. PTI PHOTO

New CSR policy for quality village schools: Shivakumar

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar announced on Friday that the government will come out with a new policy that will require big companies to build quality schools under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

Speaking at a Teacher's Day event organised by the Karnataka Congress, Shivakumar said the government wants 2,000 new quality schools in villages using CSR funds.

"I've had a discussion with the chief minister and a committee has been formed. I'm bringing out a new CSR policy, which will be approved in the next Cabinet meeting," Shivakumar said.

Under Indian law, wealthy companies are mandated to spend at least 2% of their average net profits of the previous three years on welfare activities. "The CSR potential in Karnataka is Rs 7,800 crore," Shivakumar said.

For every three panchayats, Shivakumar said the government wants one 'CSR School' on the lines of the Karnataka Public School, the flagship line of state-run schools. "It'll be their (companies) investment, their building. Let them name the school after themselves. These schools should have the same standard as that of CBSE and ICSE," he said.

Shivakumar said he is getting automaker Toyota to build seven schools, each at a cost of Rs 10 crore. Other companies are being difficult, he revealed. "I've requested them (companies). But they're playing around, dilly-dallying. In my constituency (Kanakapura) and district (Bengaluru South), some companies are doing (CSR activities) out of fear and based on my request," he said.

Building quality schools in villages is crucial to stop migration, Shivakumar argued. "I came to Bengaluru because my parents wanted me to get good education. I didn't go back. My children also didn't go back. Nobody goes back," he said.

Shivakumar, who runs educational institutions himself, recalled that he was "dismissed" from the National Public School (NPS) for being a larrikin. "After entering politics, I realised that I should've had a proper education. Me completing MA Political Science in 2007 made me more happy than when I became a minister," he said.

D K SHIVAKUMAR
Deputy Chief Minister

"It'll be their (companies) investment, their building. Let them name the school after themselves. These schools should have the same standard as that of CBSE and ICSE.

DKS talks tough with schools

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said big schools have been asked to adopt poorer government schools. "I've asked my daughter to adopt a school in my village, which she has done. I've asked the likes of DPS and NPS to adopt schools. If they refuse, I know how to make them toe the line," he said.

CM welcomes GST reforms, seeks cess devolution

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday welcomed the GST Council's decision to rationalise GST rates while urging the Centre to devolve to states compensation cess that is being collected on some sin goods. "We welcome the GST Council's decision to rationalise tax rates, an important step to reduce both the monetary and compliance burden on people and businesses," Siddaramaiah said in a statement.

The state could lose up to Rs 15,000-20,000 crore due to this, he said. "Yet, keeping the welfare of our people above everything else, we welcome it."

Explaining the GST voting structure, Siddaramaiah noted that the Union government holds one-third of the total voting power while all states together share the remaining two-thirds, meaning a three-fourths majority is required for any reform.

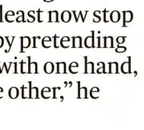
"This means that even if all states agree, a stubborn central government can block reforms. That is exactly what Modi's government did. Today's course correction proves that our stand was right all along. The people of India could have been spared years of hardship had the Union government listened earlier," he said, adding that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and opposition parties were demanding reforms since the "hurried rollout of GST.

Siddaramaiah said that the reduction in rates must lower prices for consumers, not increase profit margins for large corporates. "If the benefits fail to reach the common man, the blame will rest squarely on the Union government," he said.

IN BRIEF

State shouldn't undo GST reforms benefit, says Lahar Singh

BENGALURU, DHNS: Rajya Sabha BJP member Lahar Singh Siroya on Friday said the Congress government in the state should ensure that the GST reforms reached citizens.



Lahar Singh Siroya

"They should not cleverly bring in additional levies at the state-level, like they have done with petrol and diesel to create a distortion in the benefits," Siroya said in a statement.

"The state government seems to be already making a case for additional levies by saying the GST reforms will lead to loss of revenue. The GST reforms, which is meant to benefit every single citizen and consumer, should not be diluted in any which way," he said.

"The state government, which always brings up the issue of loss of revenue and co-operative federalism does not speak about how the burden of their guarantees scheme has sunk the finances of the state," Siroya said. "Now that GST has been reformed, the state government should also consider reforming the guarantees. CM Siddaramaiah's government should at least now stop fooling people by pretending to be generous with one hand, but rob with the other," he said.

Issue fresh recruitment notifications: Govt to depts

BENGALURU, DHNS: The state government asked all departments and subsidiaries to rescind recruitment notifications that were issued before October 2024, and start the process afresh by applying internal reservation among Scheduled Castes (SC).

In a circular, the government specified that any recruitment notification issued after October 2024 must also be scrapped.

Fresh recruitment notifications must be issued by providing internal reservation to SCs, it said. Accordingly, the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) has cancelled recruitment exams that were scheduled on September 6, 7 and October 4 to 42 posts of agriculture officers and 231 assistant agriculture officers under the Kalyana Karnataka quota.

Ballot papers: Govt going against transparency, says Joshi

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Taking a dig at the Karnataka government's decision to reintroduce ballot paper, Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi on Friday said the move is against transparency in elections.

"The Congress-headed government's decision is a regressive step that undermines decades of progress," he said.

"Going back to paper ballots will only bring back old problems — higher invalid votes, booth capturing, delays, huge costs, and environmental waste," Joshi said in a statement.

Karnataka was a pioneer of India's electronic voting machine (EVM) revolution. Bengaluru was among the first cities to pilot EVMs in the late 1980s, and the state led their adoption in the 1990s. Over time, EVMs with VVPAT became the backbone of India's electoral process — ensuring faster counting, minimal invalid votes, and protection from booth capturing, Joshi said.

He added that Karnataka was now discarding technology and moving against the national trend of digitisation and transparency.

HEALTH PUSH

UAS Dharwad develops 8 new high-yielding millet varieties

SRINIDHI R
DHARWAD, DHNS

India has achieved self-sufficiency in food production, with output rising from 50 million tonnes to 350 million tonnes over the past three decades.

However, progress in achieving nutritional security has not kept pace.

With health experts now strongly advocating the return of millets for their nutritional value, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has tasked agricultural universities with promoting millet cultivation and consumption.

In line with this, the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Dharwad has developed eight new high-yielding and climate-resilient millet varieties, which will be formally released during the upcoming Krishi Mela.

UAS Vice-Chancellor Prof P L Patil told *DH* that both the Union and State governments were actively promoting millet farming to strengthen nutritional security and tackle long-standing malnutrition challenges.

"These new varieties are tolerant to both floods and droughts. Alongside, our scientists have also developed two improved varieties of vegetables — okra and tomato and 20 new agricultural technologies that could prove game-changers for farmers," Prof Patil said.

A new variety of foxtail millet DFT-3 which promises higher yield of 31 quintals per hectare and has a higher fodder yield of 5.15 tonnes per hectare, along with more ear head weight (17 grams) and more tillers per plant (3.5), has been developed.

In Little Millet, an improved variety - DLtM-5, which also has a higher grain yield of 26.34 quintals per hectare and 4.69 tonnes fodder yield, has been developed.

Other new improved variety millets are - DBrM-5 Barnyard Millet with 34.28 quintals per hectare, DFM-3 Finger Millet variety with 36.07 quintals per hectare, DKM-1 Kodo Millet variety with 36.07 quintals per hectare, DPrM-5 Proso Millet with 24.66 quintals higher grain yield and DSM 4 Sesame variety with 800 kg per hectare yield have been developed.

In addition, a major breakthrough has been achieved in hybrid sunflower (RSFH-700).

This variety delivers a seed yield of 2,434 kg per hectare with 40% oil content and 6 g seed weight. Notably, it is resistant to sunflower necrosis virus, blight, and powdery mildew.

Under vegetables, the UAS has developed, Okra (DOV-1) which has 17 tonnes yield per hectare and Tomato (DTmV-5) with 40 tonnes yield per hectare. Millet cultivation is steadily gaining momentum due to its nutritional benefits and value-added potential.

Over the last three years, the area under millet cultivation has expanded from 13 million hectares to 14.5 million hectares, underscoring its growing acceptance among farmers.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Rainfall occurred at few places over North Interior and at most places over Coastal Karnataka and South Interior Karnataka
Forecast Sept 06: Rainfall to occur at many places over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	25.4	20.2	1.3
Bidar	30.2	20.5	00
Vijayapura	30.5	20.5	00
Dharwad	27	19.2	01
Haveri	25.8	21	6.2
Kalaburagi	32.2	21.8	00
Raichur	32	22	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	29.2	24.6	12.6
Karwar	30.2	24.4	8.4
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	29.3	23.3	16.8

INTERIOR SOUTH			
Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	NA	NA	48
Bengaluru	27.6	20.6	1.8
Ballari	NA	NA	NA
Chamarajanagar	27.7	18.8	00
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	28.1	20.4	0.1
Davangere	29	20	00
Hassan	25.9	19.4	00
Mysuru	28	20	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	30.1	19.4	00
OTHER STATIONS			
New Delhi	33.2	23.7	08
Kolkata	34.6	27	00
Mumbai	28	24.8	11
Chennai	35.4	26	00
Pune	27.8	21.9	00
Hyderabad	30.8	22.2	00
Th'puram	32.6	23.8	00

Govt will ensure consumers get GST cut benefits: Goyal

Says GST reforms have nothing to do with US tariffs

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Piyush Goyal

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal on Friday said the Central government would ensure the benefit of the substantial reductions in Goods & Services Tax (GST) rates was passed on to consumers.

Claiming that industries had already given assurance in this regard, Goyal said state governments should also ensure that the benefits were passed on.

"Together, we must ensure and keep watch; while the government will certainly do this work, media colleagues should also ensure that the full benefit of the GST rate cuts reaches the consumers," Goyal told reporters at the BJP headquarters here.

In the coming days, the new GST structure would lead to an increase in demand, and the prices of a wide range of consumer goods would go down after September 22, he said.

Goyal also drew a sharp contrast with the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) era, claiming that state governments back then lacked trust in the Central government over compensation assurances tied to the rollout of a unified indirect tax.

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the government had the courage to decide that after the introduction of GST, if the revenue of any state dipped, or revenue growth was less than 14%, the Union government would compensate it for the first five years, he said.

Insisting that GST rationalisation had nothing to do with the US decision to impose a 50% tariff on Indian goods, Goyal said it was the outcome of about a year-long consultation among the stakeholders.

He also said the Union government's decisions were not guided by any election.

Late former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee had imagined a single tax, he said, adding that the vision was that all 30-35 different types of taxes, duties, and levies should be combined to form a single tax. "Atal ji did not get elected in 2004," he rued.

"Before 2014, during the Congress governments, the burden on consumers and traders — whether of taxes or paperwork — kept increasing, but after GST was implemented in 2017, it continuously reduced. Today, India's economy is in such a strong position that bank interest rates have come down, inflation has dropped sharply, and the growth rate has reached," Goyal said.

Congress' 'bidi-Bihar' barb sparks BJP outrage

NEW DELHI, DHNS: A controversial post by the Kerala unit of the Congress on X, linking the recent GST cut on bidis to Bihar, triggered sharp backlash from the BJP, with several leaders protesting the post ahead of elections in the state.

The post referenced the Goods and Services Tax revision that reduced the tax on bidis from 28% to 18%, stating: "Bidis and Bihar start with B. Cannot be considered a sin anymore."

The post drew widespread condemnation and was deleted thereafter.

The BJP and its allies responded strongly. Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary denounced the post as an "insult to the entire Bihar", accusing the Congress of repeatedly revealing its "true character" by targeting both the state and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's family.

Union Minister Nityanand Rai said the Congress takes "pleasure in insulting Biharis" and vowed that the people of Bihar would teach a lesson to those who attack their "self-respect".

"B doesn't just mean bidi, it also means buddhi (intellect), which you lack! B also means budget, which irritates you whenever Bihar receives special assistance... The Congress has not only insulted Bihar again but mocked its glorious history and democracy," said JD(U)'s Sanjay Kumar Jha.

The Congress later issued an apology and said that the post did not represent the party's official stance.

DH Brandspot

Historic Milad Conference at Palace Grounds

Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan succeeds in uniting everyone

For the first time in the history of the state, such a grand Milad conference was organised at the Palace Grounds. The chief architect behind this was Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan, who took full responsibility for the event. By winning the confidence of all religious leaders of the Karnataka Sunni Jamaat, he emerged as an undisputed leader of the community.

> On the occasion of the 1500th birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad, the Eid Milad-un-Nabi conference held at the Palace Grounds not only created history but also brought people together successfully, thanks to the efforts of Minority Welfare Minister **Zameer Ahmed Khan.**
>
> *-Karnataka Joint Milad Committee*

Until now, Milad programs were held every year in different places across Bengaluru, such as YMCA, Tannery Road, Khadria Masjid, and others. But this time, on the occasion of the 1500th birth anniversary, Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan worked tirelessly for two months, holding discussions with religious leaders and community heads, and succeeded in building consensus to hold a united program at one place.

His efforts received wholehearted support and cooperation from all religious leaders and community heads. Thus, under the banner of the Karnataka Joint Milad Committee, the historic conference was held with the participation of all religious leaders at one venue, in the presence of dignitaries including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, thereby creating a new chapter in history.

Senior AIADMK leader asks EPS to bring back all expelled leaders

CHENNAI, DHNS: Pushing for a unified AIADMK by re-inducting the likes of V K Sasikala, veteran AIADMK leader K A Sengottaiyan, on Friday set a 10-day deadline for general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami to take steps towards bringing back those who had left the party. If Palaniswami does not heed to his ultimatum, Sengottaiyan said he himself would spearhead the effort along with "like-minded" leaders.

In a press conference in Gobichettipalayam, Sengottaiyan didn't criticize Palaniswami but stressed the need for bringing back Sasikala, her nephew T T V Dhinakaran, and former CM O Panneerselvam to the party to make the AIADMK "battle-ready" for the 2026 polls, without naming them.

This is the first time that a voice within the AIADMK has pushed for the reentry of the three leaders. At no point during the briefing, Sengottaiyan spoke even remotely against the high command, but he subtly conveyed his message.

Meitei body slams Centre's truce with Kuki rebels

Calls SoO extension anti-people, illegitimate

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

A day after the Centre extended the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with Kuki rebel groups in strife-hit Manipur, Co-ordination Committee on Manipur Unity (COCOMI), a forum representing the majority Meitei community, on Friday rejected the decision, calling it anti-people.

"The extension of the SoO agreement despite the series of terrorist and criminal acts committed by these groups is a decision that runs completely against the interests of the indigenous people of Manipur. COCOMI reaffirms its stand to firmly oppose this anti-people move of the Government of India," COCOMI said in a statement.

Imagi Meira, a Meitei woman vigilante group, also slammed the Centre for extending the SoO agreement.

COCOMI also highlighted decisions taken by the Manipur Cabinet in March 2023 & 2024, seeking abrogation of the SoO pact with the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) and United People's Front (UPF), 2 forums comprising at least 25 Kuki rebel groups.

The KNO and UPF have been under the SoO agreement since 2008, but the same lapsed in February. The Centre delayed the extension of the same mainly due to Opposition from the Meitei organisations.

COCOMI is one of the major Meitei organisations that has been demanding abrogation of the SoO agreement with the Kuki rebel groups as one of the conditions for ending the conflict involving the Meitei and the Kuki communities since May 2023.

Kuki groups had also demanded action against the Meitei armed groups, including the Arambai Tenggol, for attacks on the community.

"Under the current President's Rule, the administration is being run by an authority appointed from New Delhi, which lacks the legitimacy to represent the people of Manipur in letter and spirit. The decision to extend the SoO under such circumstances is illegitimate and reflects an undemocratic and hegemonic imposition upon the indigenous people and it's elected representatives of Manipur," COCOMI further said.

The Union Home Ministry on Thursday said the SoO agreements with the KNP and UPF were extended by another year with revised ground rules that stressed the "territorial integrity" of Manipur and the need for a negotiated settlement to the conflict.

The Kuki Zo Council also signed a pact with the MHA, assuring its support to ensure free movement on the NH-2 that passes through the Kuki-dominated Kangpokpi district. The NH-2 connects the Manipur capital of Imphal with Dimpur in neighbouring Nagaland, but movement on the stretch remained affected due to the conflict.

The decisions were taken ahead of the PM's visit to the state on September 13.

Telangana govt unveils Bhu Bharati land records system replacing Dharani

HYDERABAD, PTI: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Friday said his government has launched the 'Bhu Bharati' portal for land administration to address the problems allegedly created by the 'Dharani' land records management system introduced during the previous BRS regime.

Speaking at an event where he handed over appointment letters to the newly-recruited 'Grama Palana Officers (GPOs) (village administration officers), he said people of the state wanted "liberation" from 'Dharani'.

Without naming the BRS government, he alleged that the former regime portrayed Village Revenue Officers (VRO) and Village Revenue Assistants (VRA) as "black sheep" to prevent them from exposing "loot" of lands.

The Congress government tried to address the problems caused by 'Dharani' by replacing it with the 'Bhu Bharati' portal. He urged the GPOs to adopt a pro-people approach to correct the negative perception created by the previous government.

Protests erupt at Srinagar's Hazratbal shrine over Ashoka Emblem engraving

ZULFIKAR MAJID
SRINAGAR, DHNS

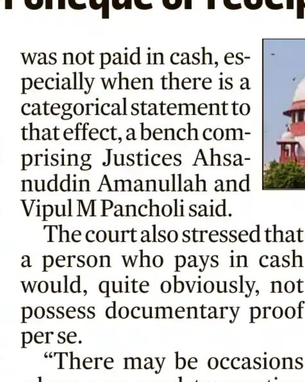
A controversy broke out at the revered Hazratbal shrine in Srinagar on Friday after devotees staged protests against the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board for inscribing the Ashoka Emblem on the foundation stone of a new structure within the shrine premises.

Several visitors accused Waqf Board chairperson and senior BJP leader Darakhshan Andrabi, along with clerics under her oversight, of showing insensitivity towards the religious sentiments of Muslims.

Devotees described the move as a blatant violation of Islamic traditions and called for immediate accountability from the authorities.

As tempers ran high, the Ashoka Emblem carved on the foundation board was defaced by protesters.

Reacting sharply, Andrabi denounced the act, terming it a "terrorist attack" and demanded stern action against those involved. "Those who carried out this act are nothing less than terrorists. I appeal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, Home Minister Amit Shah ji and law enforcement agencies to arrest them without delay," she told reporters.


A general view shows the Hazratbal Shrine (back) along the banks of Dal Lake in Srinagar. AFP

The Waqf chairperson alleged that the incident was not spontaneous but deliberately engineered. "The chaos was orchestrated by political workers and their supporters. I had already warned that such trouble could be created. FIRs will be filed against everyone responsible, including the MLA whose tweet added fuel to the fire," Andrabi said.

Earlier, National Conference MLA Tanvir Sadiq, a close aide of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, had strongly opposed the inscription of the Ashoka Emblem. In a post on X, Sadiq said that while he was not a religious scholar, Islam strictly forbids idol worship, which he termed the gravest of sins.

"The foundation of our faith is Tawheed," he wrote, arguing that the presence of the Ashoka Emblem—described as a sculpted figure—within the Dargah contradicts this core Islamic belief. "Sacred spaces must reflect only the purity of Tawheed, nothing else," he added.

Nitish launches projects worth Rs 1,159 cr

PATNA, PTI: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Friday launched projects worth around Rs 1,159.84 crore in Patna district.

The CM also inaugurated Bihar's first cable suspension bridge, modelled on the iconic Laxman Jhula of Rishikesh (Uttarakhand). The bridge over the Punpun River has been built at a cost of Rs 82.99 crore.

A statement issued by the chief minister's office here said, "The CM on Friday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of 17 development projects in Patna."

These projects include the construction of a bridge and approach road over Punpun River between Samda and Gularia Vigha villages for Rs 19.77 crore, development of tourism facilities at the Ular Sun Temple in Paliganj at Rs 14.99 crore and construction of a connecting road from Punpun station to the Patna Ring Road.

SC: Absence of cheque or receipt doesn't negate cash payments

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The absence of a cheque, bank transfer or receipt does not necessarily negate a cash transaction, the Supreme Court said, observing that it is not uncommon for monetary transactions to include a cash component.

Merely because a person is unable to prove the transfer through official channels, such as a negotiable instrument or bank transaction, it cannot be concluded that the amount was not paid in cash, especially when there is a categorical statement to that effect, a bench comprising Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Vipul M Pancholi said.

The court also stressed that a person who pays in cash would, quite obviously, not possess documentary proof per se.

"There may be occasions where even a cash transaction is accompanied by a receipt. However, the absence of such documentation does not negate or disprove the claim that a cash transaction occurred between the parties," it said.

The SC allowed an appeal filed by Georgekutty Chacko, who contended that although his suit for recovery of an amount pursuant to a promissory note had been upheld, the recoverable sum — Rs 35.29 lakh — was reduced to Rs 22 lakh by the high court.

The apex court held that the bifurcation made by the HC was clearly erroneous and therefore unsustainable.

The appellant submitted that the respondent, MN Saji, was obligated to pay the amount under a promissory note, in which he had acknowledged receiving Rs 30.8 lakh from the appellant.

The suit for recovery was filed by the appellant and allowed by the trial court.

The trial court decreed the suit for Rs 35.29 lakh. However, the HC modified the order and reduced the decretal amount to Rs 22 lakh.

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Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA), Ministry of Corporate Affairs, is testing the Integrated Portal with new IEPF e-Forms to ensure faster, seamless, and transparent claim settlement by bringing MCA, Depositories, PFMS, and Companies on a single platform.

Investors/Depositors whose shares, dividends, deposits, or debentures have been transferred to IEPF under the Companies Act, 1956/2013 may file refund claims online. Please refer to the Instruction Kit for Claimants available at www.iepf.gov.in under Help & FAQs.

How to file the claim in the new portal?

1. Go to IEPF Website(www.iepf.gov.in) > Navigate to services > Click on Refund/Claim refund
2. Register on MCA website (www.mca.gov.in): Create a Login ID & Password in MCA 21
3. Online Filing of IEPF-5 Form: The IEPF-5 Form to be submitted online and acknowledgment shall be sent on the registered email, along with pre-filled auto-generated indemnity bond.
4. The IEPF-5 form submitted by the claimant will undergo PAN verification. The claimant's Demat ID will be validated using the PAN, and the account number linked to the Demat ID will be pre-filled in the form for refund processing.
5. Original Documents to be sent to Company: Courier the complete set of the IEPF-5 form to the Nodal Officer of the company along with other support documents. All print/photocopies must be self-attested. Postal receipt should be submitted under **Pending for Action** tab.

General information

On receiving the original documents, the concerned company will verify the claim against their records within 30 days of filing and upload an "E-Verification Report (EVR)" on the MCA portal, indicating either approval or rejection of the claim. Based on the EVR recommendation, the Authority will process the case according to IEPF rules.

➤ Claimants shall receive an email notification on approval or rejection of their claim on their registered email ID.

NOTE:

- File e-Form IEPF-5 only when all required documents are available.
- The claimant can track the status of share transfer and amount transfer by logging in with their MCA ID.
- To track your claim, log in to your MCA21 account > Navigate to My Application > Check under the Under Processing tab for the status.
- IEPFA acknowledges communication from the verified contact details only, provided by claimants while filling IEPF form 5 online.
- Claims rejected by companies in EVR are summarily rejected.
- For discrepancies, claimants must approach the concerned company and its Nodal Officer to rectify issues.
- IEPFA urges all investors to update nomination details to ensure that investments do not remain unclaimed or unpaid.
- Claimant can raise their grievances by raising tickets on IEPF website under **Services > Raise Tickets.**

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DECCAN HERALD
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A reform to push consumption

The long-awaited rationalisation of the GST regime has happened, with the GST Council agreeing on simplification of the present system for the first time since its 2017 introduction, which itself was delayed for many years because of political reasons. It was a welcome turn that those who had initially opposed the idea later piloted and implemented it. Despite disagreements over some details, the country finally had a common indirect tax system. The states surrendered a good part of their taxation power in the interests of uniformity and efficiency, and the system has worked till now. But it was clear that it needed reform. The government is attempting it now, though the move has also been necessitated by the tariff war US President Donald Trump has unleashed on the country.

The new tax regime will have two slabs – 5% and 18% – instead of the four slabs in the existing system. Luxury and sin items will be taxed at a new rate of 40%. The lower tax incidence on a wide range of commodities is expected to result in savings of 5 to 10% of people's expenditure on common items of consumption. The rise in consumption can lead to an increase in production and give a boost to employment and the overall economy. The changes are also expected to help lessen the impact of the increased US tariffs on some sectors. The new tax regime is estimated to boost the economy by 20 basis points and further soften inflation by 40 basis points. It introduces a new price-based tax differential, which aims to tax two products in the same category differently based on their affordability. This is intended to ensure that affluent individuals contribute more to the country's growth objectives and to avoid equal tax treatment of different income groups. The introduction of a new, higher tax slab for luxury and sin items also comes with a social purpose.

GST cuts implemented across sectors through the restructured slabs are expected to spur the economy

Most of the reforms are based on assumptions and expectations, and it is to be seen whether they will translate into measurable results. But there is a strong basis for the expectations. Some of the changes brought into the processes are also expected to facilitate easier implementation and better compliance. States had raised concerns about a potential fall in revenues caused by the changes and had sought compensation. The GST Council meeting does not seem to have discussed the matter. This is one of the issues that will require immediate intervention.

Sanctions stall aid to Afghanistan

The powerful earthquake that struck the eastern provinces of Afghanistan has left a trail of death and devastation. It was followed by aftershocks and another tremor of high intensity. Early estimates put the death toll at over 1,500 and the number of injured at over 3,000 – a disaster deadlier than the 2023 earthquake. It takes days, and sometimes weeks, to ascertain the casualties of an earthquake because removing the debris and locating people is not easy. This is particularly so in a country like Afghanistan, where connectivity and communication are poor. The earthquake has created a humanitarian crisis. Afghanistan is used to earthquakes, situated as it is in the Hindukush region, where tectonic activity is strong. Given the nature of the terrain and the poor state of preparedness, an earthquake in Afghanistan causes more damage than elsewhere. The latest incident also demonstrates this.

The worst-hit areas are the provinces of Kunar and Nangarhar in eastern Afghanistan. Rescue efforts are going on to locate bodies and survivors. It is a difficult task in Afghanistan, which is short of men and resources for an effort of this scale. The administration and the volunteers are in for a stiff challenge. With roads blocked and communication lines broken, helicopters are the only means of transport to shift people and to move medicines and relief material. Some areas are inaccessible to even the helicopters. Rescuers are struggling to reach mountainous areas in adverse weather. Many villages and settlements have disappeared under rubble.

After a deadly earthquake, diplomatic isolation and resource crunch aggravate the crisis

The Taliban government has called for international aid as it is facing an economic crisis and cannot mobilise the resources needed for relief and rehabilitation. The administration is also struggling with a large number of Afghans deported by Iran and Pakistan. It is facing multiple sanctions because of its hardline policies, such as a ban on female education. The UN has called for international aid to be extended to the country on humanitarian grounds. India has dispatched emergency aid, including food, medicines, and materials, and more such consignments are being moved. Some of the other countries have also contributed, but the world needs to respond better and faster. Britain has set up funding support which it wants to reach the affected people, but not through the Taliban government. The US has expressed condolences for the loss of life. The world must set aside differences with the Taliban government and opposition to its policies, and extend aid and support to the people in their hour of need.

RHETORIC OR REALITY?

India and China in a strategic thaw

The Tianjin tango signals a shift towards cooperation and regional stability. Now, action must match the optics

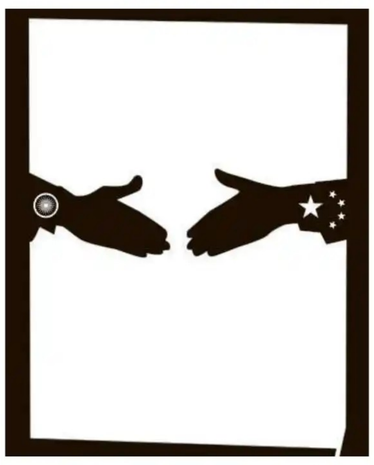
IMRAN KHURSHID

The recent Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Tianjin, China, marked a notable moment in Sino-Indian relations. On its conclusion, the summit adopted the Tianjin Declaration, which strongly condemned the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack and emphasised coordinated action against terrorism, alongside outlining a series of cooperative initiatives among SCO members. What captured the attention of international observers, however, was the grand reception accorded to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the unusually cordial body language exhibited by the Chinese leadership towards India.

Given the lingering mistrust in India stemming from the Galwan Valley clashes and China's recent support for Pakistan during Operation Sindoor, expectations were initially cautious. Yet, the SCO summit demonstrated a clear effort by Beijing to improve ties with New Delhi. Chinese state media highlighted the importance of focusing on long-term cooperation, trade, and mutual development rather than border disputes. Modi's engagement with Xi Jinping included discussions on four guiding principles proposed by Xi to enhance bilateral ties: strengthening strategic communication and deepening mutual trust, expanding exchanges and cooperation to achieve mutual benefit, accommodating each other's concerns to uphold peaceful coexistence, and strengthening multilateral cooperation to safeguard common interests.

These principles were positively received by India and represented a significant step towards restoring confidence in the bilateral relationship. China's approach was markedly different from previous interactions, when disagreements over statements and other issues often led to friction. In June, New Delhi refused to endorse the joint declaration at the SCO defence ministers' meeting in Qingdao, China, because it omitted any reference to the Pahalgam terror attack, claimed by TRF operatives linked to Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba. In contrast, at Tianjin, Beijing ensured that Pakistan did not raise contentious issues directed at India and that the Pahalgam attack was explicitly condemned in the joint declaration, signalling a willingness to recalibrate its approach towards New Delhi.

Strategic reasons underpin China's outreach. As highlighted by former Indian foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale in his book *The Long Game: How the Chinese Negotiate with India*, "China rarely perceives India independently; it always sees India through the prism of its rivalry with the United States." China's outreach, therefore, can be seen as part of a broader effort to recalibrate influence in South Asia while countering American strategic leverage, especially since the outreach occurred only after India's US ties deteriorated following the imposition of the 50% tariffs on Indian goods.



China continues to use international forums like the SCO as platforms for power projection and global signalling. Similar to the 2008 Beijing Olympics, these summits are leveraged to showcase China as a stable, predictable, and influential actor in this disruptive era. Given India's status as a consequential SCO member and its increasing geopolitical significance, outreach to India becomes even more essential for a successful SCO summit and broader strategic messaging.

Recent Chinese support to Pakistan, particularly during Operation Sindoor, generated significant criticism in the Indian media and public discourse. Reports of real-time military assistance and other forms of support were widely condemned. Moreover, China also faced backlash from its own population when it announced that it would provide Pakistan with fifth-generation fighter jets at a discounted rate. Its strategic outreach at Tianjin represents an effort to rebuild its image in India by emphasising cooperative rhetoric and signalling a willingness to focus on mutually beneficial aspects of the bilateral relationship. By doing so, China aims to present itself as a pragmatic, responsible, and constructive power.

China's outreach also reflects a strategic desire to cool tensions along its western borders. By reducing friction with India, Beijing can prioritise other pressing challenges such as Taiwan, the South China Sea, and global trade dynamics. Positive engagement with India ensures a more stable neighbourhood and allows China to redirect attention and resources to areas of higher strategic concern.

A wary embrace

From India's standpoint, China's motives are secondary. What matters is tangible improvement in relations – respect for India's core national security concerns, recognition of India as an equal partner, and concrete actions rather than rhetorical gestures. As neighbouring countries sharing extensive land borders, China and India have an added strategic imperative to maintain stable and constructive engagement. India, as a regional power with economic and strategic interests, remains committed to engaging China. At the same time, it will continue to assess whether China's actions align with its professed intentions.

A cost-benefit analysis suggests that China gains more from constructive engagement with India than by using Pakistan as a proxy. Supporting Pakistan against India may provide short-term leverage, but it undermines China's long-term strategic and economic interests in the region. Pragmatic cooperation with India – through trade, investment, and diplomatic engagement – offers greater dividends for Beijing. If China seeks to turn its words into action, it must align behaviour with rhetoric.

The SCO summit provided a rare window of opportunity for Sino-Indian rapprochement. Both nations, with ancient civilisations, shared histories, and regional influence, have the potential to reshape the political and economic landscape of Asia. China's outreach, if genuine, could mark a turning point towards a relationship based on mutual respect, equality, and pragmatic cooperation.

However, the true test lies in implementation. Diplomatic gestures, statements in the media, and summit declarations must be followed by real, measurable actions. Only then will India-China relations move beyond a diplomatic theatre to become a constructive partnership that benefits both countries and contributes to regional stability and global prosperity.

(The writer is an associate research fellow at the International Centre for Peace Studies, New Delhi)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Death by cinnamon

A spicy showdown between tradition and modernity, served with friendship

MALATHI RAO

I was killed on a beautiful Sunday morning across the dining table by none other than my best friend with a cinnamon stick, if you please, stuck in my face like a gun. The *astra* left me gasping for breath. Fortunately it was a metaphorical death, not a mortal one. And here I am to tell the tale.

It was our lunch date, and my cook had prepared *pilau* with basmati rice, peas, pieces of carrot and cauliflower with oodles of ghee. 'First of all, the seasoning,' my cook would say, tossing slivers of cinnamon, cloves, and wild cardamom into the sizzling ghee. Next would come garlic and ginger paste with pudina, all of which would be topped with rice, and last of all the veggies with half a glass of water. When the aroma hit the air, the cook would remove the lid of the cooker and peep in. 'Just done. Enjoy with your friend.' With satisfied grunts, she would pack off.

'Appu, lunch is served,' I said with a hand flourish of welcome. I opened the lid amid small curls of steam swirling up. I served Appu and then sat down with my own plate.

She ate with her fingers, saying food tasted best this way. The next moment, she retrieved a piece of dark bark and held it up to my face. 'What is this doing here?' she snapped.

'I might have swallowed it and choked and died,' she spluttered, her face flushed red.

'Cinnamon stick', I retorted, 'which the cook says gives *pilau* its heavenly aroma. Come on, Appu, enjoy the taste of all the spices that have the world's approval for *pilau*, *pilaf*, *biryani*, or whatever.'

'Garbage,' shouted NRI Appu, 'Never. The stick sticks in your throat, and you may die of choking. The curry leaf in sambar sticks in your throat. I never use these. For years, my kitchen has had bottles of cinnamon and ginger powder. I'm sure they are available in India too.'

She didn't stop at that and went on with a litany of all my misdeeds ever since we were college mates. 'Change -- you always shunned it, Malti. Stuck to your one plait, big *bindi* and cotton saris! And now cinnamon sticks. OMG!'

She aimed the cinnamon powder like gunpowder at me. Death by cinnamon? What had started as a reunion lunch had turned into a royal battle. Traditional cooking vs modern cooking.

Enough was enough. Cinnamon powder in a shaker had turned her head. I was choking not with a stick or leaf but with anger. I got up abruptly, lunch unfinished, and dashed off to the balcony. What a pain. Born and brought up in Bengaluru and now a resident of New Jersey, she had changed indeed. The very next day she sent me the powder, which sits on my shelf, while my cook continues to favour the stick.

It was a whole year before my best friend Appu and I could laugh over the infamous cinnamon fight.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Public bodies must strive for higher standards of transparency

Apropos your editorial, 'State mandate is no shield from scrutiny' (Sept 5), the BDA's request to remain outside the purview of the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) is deeply troubling. Citing its status as a statutory body serving the public, the BDA argues that it isn't a "promoter." However, it is precisely this public-facing role that demands greater accountability, not exemption. The Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout is a case in point. Announced in 2010, thousands of residents are still waiting for basic amenities like roads, water, and electricity. Many are forced to pay both rent and EMIs, watching their "dream plots" turn into garbage dumps. RERA exists to safeguard homebuyers from delays and negligence, whether by private developers or public authorities. The BDA's track record, marred by irregularities and unkept promises, shows why it needs oversight. Shielding it from RERA would mean excusing inefficiency and enabling continued public betrayal. Public bodies must meet higher, not lower, standards of transparency.
K Chidanand Kumar, Bengaluru

Mockery of justice

Your editorial, 'Denial of bail subverts justice' (Sept 5), makes a compelling case for justice for the nine individuals, including student activist Umar Khalid, who have been detained under the UAPA in connection with the 2020 Delhi riots. Umar Khalid has reportedly been in jail for five years without any sign of a trial beginning soon. This inordinate and indefensible delay is a mockery of our justice system. The prosecution's approach seems to consider dissent against the government as an act against the state. Your editorial rightly emphasises that the accused should be considered innocent until proven otherwise and that bail is the rule, while jail is the exception. The sooner the court administers justice, the better, before it leads to the subversion of justice.
M Basavaraj, Davangere

Ethanol is harmful

The government's mandate to blend ethanol into petrol is having a detrimental impact on vehicle performance and longevity. With a 20% ethanol blend in a 10-litre fill-up, consumers are effectively getting only eight litres of petrol. This not only reduces mileage but also shortens the lifespan of vehicles. The primary beneficiaries of this policy are ethanol producers and car makers.
Padmanabha Suryanarayana, Kochi

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

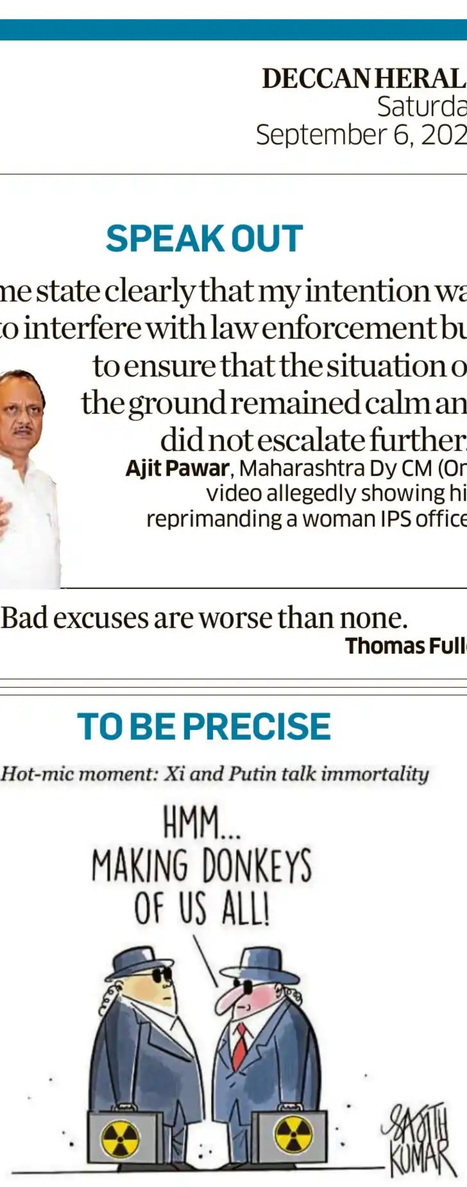
SPEAK OUT

Let me state clearly that my intention was not to interfere with law enforcement but to ensure that the situation on the ground remained calm and did not escalate further...
Ajit Pawar, Maharashtra Dy CM (On a video allegedly showing him reprimanding a woman IPS officer)

Bad excuses are worse than none.
Thomas Fuller

TO BE PRECISE

Hot-mic moment: Xi and Putin talk immortality



IN PERSPECTIVE

A tech-refined flood response

Geospatial technology facilitates advanced modelling and data analysis. Can policy leverage the promise?

SWATHI KALYANI

The recent flash floods in Pakistan and India's northern states highlight gaps in disaster preparedness beyond meteorological forecasting capabilities. These events have caused large-scale destruction, all despite IMD warnings. While India's reported decision to share hydrological data with Pakistan during its crisis demonstrated regional cooperation, the country lost over 800 lives and reported economic losses that remain difficult to assess. These disasters highlight a fundamental shortcoming in disaster management that needs to be looked into.

Flash floods, with their unpredictable intensity, are increasingly impacting a wide array of geographical settings and socio-economic groups, ranging from mountainous regions to low-lying plains, and from rural communities to dense urban centres. Each context experiences unique contributing factors, necessitating tailored mitigation strategies. Such complexity emphasises the urgent need to go beyond the limited scenario of flood risk and hazard-zoning assessments for specific projects like hydropower or agriculture. A comprehensive, compulsory flood risk assessment should be applied across the spectrum of planning domains, including urban development and industrial site selection, to avert future catastrophes.

Climate data shows that flood risks are getting worse worldwide. It is observed that flash floods are occurring much more frequently in India. Cities are also seeing more flooding as their drainage systems can't handle the increased rainfall, and coastal areas face double trouble from both storm surges and heavy rain. The financial costs are scary – global losses from natural disasters crossed $400 billion in 2024. Given these increasing costs, comprehensive flood hazard mapping is no longer optional but essential.

Flash floods are considered dangerous because of their lethal nature, speed, and unpredictability. They are formed in a matter of minutes by intense rainfall, glacial lake outbursts, or dam failures, mostly on steep terrains or where drainage infrastructure is inadequate, leaving very little time for evacuation and preparedness. Urban flooding results from a combination of heavy rainfall and poorly designed drainage systems, sometimes escalating into flash flood scenarios.

Effective flood risk assessment demands systematic integration of geospatial technology with hydrological analysis. Initially, substantial amounts of data using both satellite-based remote-sensing and ground-based monitoring stations is collected. This information is analysed using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) that aggregate and examine spatial data from many other sources. They include historical flood records, precipitation data, and topographic information to build a foundation for understanding past flood behaviour and predicting future risks.

Geospatial technology is already becoming a game-changer in these risk assessments, and its full potential is still being explored. It can analyse digital flood-related data. These include remote-sensing as well as ground-based data. Remote-sensing data, collated with technologies such as LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) provides high-resolution mapping of terrain and topography. This helps in creating digital elevation models (DEM), which are representations of ground surface elevation that help in determining the flow of water across landscapes.

With this data, it is possible to digitally build different situations ranging from small and frequent floods to the rare huge floods, and develop a better understanding of risks. It can also combine regional demographic data with flood hazard maps to find locations of vulnerable communities and assess the impact on critical infrastructure and emergency services.

Access for innovation

Real-time data integration systems have demonstrated significant potential in flood management by combining live information from weather stations, river monitors, and satellites into GIS platforms, enabling authorities to provide risk updates and early warnings to vulnerable communities. A successful model is Japan's Automated Meteorological Data Acquisition System (AMeDAS) and J-Alert, which turns flood management from a static planning process into a dynamic response adaptable to changing conditions.

In India, however, most of this data remains confined mostly to government agencies, or only allows visualisation. Ensuring broader access to researchers, planners, and other stakeholders can significantly improve the quality of flood assessment and bring innovation in data analysis methods.

These extreme weather events occurring due to various reasons, including climate change, necessitate the need for holistic and geospatial tech-powered flood risk assessment to ensure life-livelihood protection and sustainable development. Advanced geospatial technology and traditional hydrological analysis together serve as a tool for understanding and managing these risks. However, all of this depends on reliable data access, periodic modelling, and the political will for integrating results into real-world planning and policy.

Investment in these capabilities is socially imperative. The economic costs of comprehensive flood risk assessment are justified by the potential consequences of flooding in an unprepared community.

(The writer is a geospatial research analyst at the Takshashila Institution)

E20: Green Fuel and Red Flags

RAKHEE ROYTALUKDAR

Pramod Joshi has been driving a Volkswagen Vento in Pune for the past six months, and the average mileage has never been below 8 kilometres per litre. "Since I refilled with E20 petrol last week, the mileage has gone down to 6.3 kilometres per litre," Joshi, who runs a performance marketing agency, said in a video he posted on X recently. "Mileage in my Honda Elevate is down by 20% in the past 18 months," Ajay Kumar, another X-user, wrote. He also suspected that E20 – petrol blended with 20% ethanol – is the villain.

Citizens have flooded social media platforms sharing experiences of drops in the fuel efficiency of their cars – 5-7% in case of newer ones, and 20% for older ones – after they refilled with E20. The government, however, dismissed the concerns as 'misplaced', pointing out that the vehicle mileage could be influenced by a variety of factors, including driving habits and maintenance practices.

"Mileage has less to do with car parts and more with the energy available in the fuel. Ethanol has 30% lower energy per gallon than petrol. Blends have proportionally reduced energy content, like E10 (10% ethanol+90% petrol) has 30% less energy content than petrol per gallon," Abhishek Jha, an energy expert with climate tech start-up, UrjanovaC, told *DH*.

Even as the debate on 20% ethanol blending in petrol rages on, the government sees it as a game-changer in reducing the carbon footprint. The Supreme Court recently dismissed a Public Interest Litigation filed by advocate Akshay Malhotra, who complained about the lack of consumer choices in the wake of E20 rollout, the lack of proper labelling on petrol blends and the lack of proper study on E20's impact on the longevity of vehicles.

The government has time and again clarified its intent on the E20 rollout, a cleaner fuel that not only reduces carbon emissions but also the country's dependence on crude oil imports. India has achieved its objective of blending 20% ethanol with petrol, five years ahead of its target. Since 2014, ethanol blending has helped India reduce 69.8 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions and save Rs 1.36 trillion in foreign exchange.

"Ethanol, being lower in energy density than petrol, results in a marginal decrease in mileage, estimated at 1-2% for four-wheelers designed for E10 and calibrated for E20, and around 3-6% in others," the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas posted on X, adding: "This marginal drop in efficiency can be further minimised through improved engine tuning and use of E20-compatible materials, which leading automobile manufacturers have already adopted".

P K Banerjee, executive director at the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, said recently that using E20 fuel in older vehicles could lower mileage, but posed no safety risk.

"Blending ethanol in petrol in the name of climate action is a myth," environmentalist Soumya Dutta, trustee of MAUSAM, said. "The entire process of cultivation, harvest, transportation of raw materials and finally the conversion of molasses to ethanol generates a certain amount of carbon footprint. Its efficacy in reducing carbon emissions and enhancing sustainability remains debatable."

He also pointed out that sugarcane, rice, and maize were all water-intensive crops. "Besides, as more areas are earmarked for sugarcane and grain production for ethanol, it literally means diverting farm produce towards manufacturing fuel."

Motorists reasoned that since ethanol had a lower energy density than petrol, car engines needed to burn more of it to generate the same output. "Ethanol is a potent solvent, so its prolonged exposure can damage the rubber-based fittings, corrode metals and loosen tank line deposits. Older vehicles are more exposed because many have rubber or cork hoses, uncoated aluminium or zinc parts and older seals," biofuel expert Rahil Akhtar Usmani, who teaches at Integral University in Lucknow, said. "Routine servicing and replacement with E20-compatible material can reduce risk, but not completely if the vehicle's fuel system is not calibrated."

(The writer is an independent journalist)

THE BLENDING BIND

ETHANOL, a byproduct of sugarcane processing, can be mixed with petrol, cutting down on fossil fuel consumption and limiting carbon emissions.

- **The Government of India** notified the National Policy on Biofuels – 2018 (NPB-2018) on June 4, 2018, setting the target of **20% blending of ethanol in petrol by 2030**
- The **NPB-2018** was amended in 2022, advancing the target of 20% blending of Ethanol in petrol from 2030 to Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) **2025-26**
- Ethanol blending of **19.93%** has been achieved in **July 2025.**
- No decision yet on increasing ethanol blending with petrol **beyond 20%**

SOURCE: MOPNG, GOI

ADVANTAGES

- **Greenhouse Gas emission** is 65% and 50% lower than petrol in the case of ethanol manufactured from sugarcane and maize, respectively, according to a NITI Aayog study
- The E20 rollout has helped India save over **Rs 1.36 trillion in foreign exchange** since 2014, substituted 245 lakh metric tonnes of crude
- Ethanol production from sugarcane and grains generates additional income for farmers, boosts the rural economy
- Ethanol's **higher-octane number (₹108.5 compared to petrol's 84.4)** makes Ethanol-blended fuels a valuable alternative for the higher-octane requirement of modern high-compression engines.
- Vehicles tuned for E20 deliver **better acceleration**

CONCERNS

- Alleged reduction in mileage as ethanol has a lower energy density than petrol
- The majority of vehicles, manufactured before April 2023, and even some BS-VI modules, are reportedly not engineered to handle high ethanol content, leading to potential engine corrosion, reduced fuel efficiency, and the likelihood of insurance claim denials.
- Sugarcane, rice and maize, used to produce ethanol, are water-intensive crops, and India already faces a water crisis
- Older vehicles, not compatible with E20, may need to be fitted with upgraded components such as fuel lines, pumps and rubber seals to handle higher ethanol content

COMPILED BY
RAKHEE ROYTALUKDAR

Govt has no plan to go back to E0

GYANENDRA KESHRI
DH NEWS SERVICE

In 2014-15, the Union Ministry of Heavy Industries funded a project to study the suitability of a 20% ethanol-gasoline blend (E20) and its impact on vehicles. The study, conducted jointly by Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), Indian Institute of Petroleum (IIP) and Indian Oil Corporation, revealed up to 6% decline in fuel economy, depending on the vehicle type. The test vehicles passed startability and drivability tests at hot and cold conditions with E0 (ethanol-free petrol) and E20 test fuels.

Subsequently, the government came out with the National Policy on Biofuels (NPB), 2018, under which a target was set to achieve 20% ethanol blending in petrol by 2030. By May 2022, India achieved 10% ethanol blending, five months ahead of schedule. Buoyed by the progress, the Union Cabinet in May 2022 amended the NPB, advancing the 20% blending target by five years from 2030 to 2025.

Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri recently announced that the 20% ethanol blending target had been achieved, more than five years ahead of the original target of 2030. "India hits 20% ethanol blending in petrol five years ahead of target. From just 1.5% in 2014 to 20% in 2025, this clean energy leap has: saved Rs 1.36 lakh crore in forex, paid Rs 1.18 lakh crore to farmers, cut 698 lakh tonnes of CO_2 emissions," Puri wrote on X in July.

Ethanol blending in petrol started in India on a pilot basis in 2001. The Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) programme was launched in 2003, and, in 2006, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas directed the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) to sell 5% ethanol-blended petrol in 20 states and four union territories. However, the progress remained slow, with ethanol blending in petrol at 1.53% in 2014.

After the launch of the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018, ethanol production surged from 38 crore litres in 2014 to 661.1 crore litres by June 2025.

During the last 11 years from Ethanol Supply Year (ESY) 2014-15 to ESY 2024-25 up to July 2025, ethanol blending in petrol by public sector OMCs has resulted in savings of more than Rs 1,44,087 crore of foreign exchange, crude oil substitution of about 245 lakh metric tonnes providing crucial energy security and CO_2 emission reduction of approximately 736 lakh metric tonnes, the equivalent of planting 30 crore trees, as per data shared by the petroleum ministry last month.

At 20% blending, it is expected that payment to the farmers in this year alone will be to the tune of Rs 40,000 crore and forex savings will be around Rs 43,000 crore.

The opposition parties, like the Congress and the Trinamool Congress, levelled allegations of conflict of interest against Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, claiming that he had been "aggressively lobbying" for ethanol production while his two sons were involved in firms that produced ethanol and "benefited" from government policy. The ruling BJP, however, dismissed the allegation.

Gadkari, himself, earlier slammed "some people in the petroleum lobby" for running the "completely false" campaign about E20 lowering the fuel efficiency of vehicles.

"Going back to E0 petrol (without ethanol) would involve losing the hard-fought gains on pollution," the petroleum ministry said, signalling intent to go ahead with the implementation of the national Ethanol Blending Programme.

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Next-generation nuclear technology leverages thorium

Thorium-based reactors generate vast energy from a small amount of fuel. This technology offers a crucial clean power source for India, writes B K Singh

Thorium-232 (Th-232) represents a significant advancement in nuclear technology. When converted to Uranium-233 (U-233), it facilitates a chain reaction with an energy density a hundred times higher than conventional U-235.

In India, the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), in collaboration with the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), is developing Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) that use relatively small quantities of Th-232 fuel. These reactors, designed to generate up to 300 MWe (megawatts electrical), are compact enough to be deployed in remote regions, industrial clusters, and disaster-resilient infrastructure, with the potential to power an entire district.

Conventional nuclear power uses natural uranium, of which only 0.7% is the fissile isotope U-235. This means one kilogram of uranium contains just seven grams of U-235, with the remaining 993 grams becoming waste. Despite this inefficiency, the energy generated from that small amount of U-235 is immense, equivalent to the thermal energy from coal carried in two large freight trains. While powerful, uranium-based generation produces significant long-lived radioactive waste, necessitating robust safeguards against leaks.

The global SMR market, as projected by the IEA, is expected to grow from $5.8 billion in 2022 to over $18 billion by 2030. However, uranium deposits are not universally abundant, leading many countries, including the United States, to rely on imports for both defence and power generation. This limitation has driven research into alternative fuels, such as Th-232. For two to three decades, nations including China, India, Japan, the UK, and the USA have actively pursued thorium-based reactor technology, and this work is now yielding tangible results.

Th-232 is a slightly radioactive, silvery metal found in igneous rocks and heavy mineral sands. It is three to four times more abundant in the Earth's upper crust than uranium, with an average concentration of 10.5 parts per million (ppm) compared to uranium's 3 ppm. Crucially, thorium-fuelled reactors offer the potential to be more environmentally friendly. Although Th-232 is fissionable, it is not fissile on its own; it requires a high-energy neutron bombardment to initiate fission and release energy for electricity generation.

India's three-stage nuclear programme is a strategic approach to exploiting its limited uranium and vast thorium reserves. Stage I utilises natural uranium in pressurised heavy-water reactors. Stage II employs fast breeder reactors that use plutonium-based fuel to breed more fuel. The final, Stage III, involves advanced reactors that utilise U-233 bred from Th-232.

New achievement

India has now reached this stage, with BARC engineers recently announcing the development of small nuclear reactors capable of supplying electricity to an entire district for years using only a small quantity of Th-232.

A thorium-fuelled reactor requires an initial critical quantity of a fissile driver material—such as U-233, U-235, or plutonium-239 (Pu-239)—to begin the process. This can be likened to lighting wet wood: it won't ignite on its own, but if placed on a sufficient bed of burning coal (the driver), it dries and eventually sustains its own fire. In India, Pu-239 from its fast breeder programme will be used to drive the thorium chain reaction.

The driver material provides the initial neutrons to convert fertile Th-232 into fissile U-233 through the following steps:

1. Th-232 (atomic number 90) captures a neutron to become Th-233.
2. Th-233 undergoes beta decay to become protactinium-233 (Pa-233) (atomic number 91).
3. Pa-233 undergoes beta decay to become fissile U-233 (atomic number 92).

The U-233 then sustains a nuclear fission chain reaction: U-233 + 1 neutron fission into products like strontium-94 and xenon-137, releasing additional neutrons and approximately 197.9 MeV of energy. These new neutrons can convert more Th-232 into U-233, creating a self-sustaining cycle.

The energy output is enormous. One kilomole of Th-232 (232 kg) contains Avogadro's number of atoms (6.022×10^{2}). Complete fission of this amount would generate approximately 1.9×10^{1} joules of energy. Factoring in a realistic reactor efficiency of 33%, 232 kg of Th-232 could power a district consuming 40 MW of electricity for several years.

In an era of climate disruption, the global transition away from fossil fuels is urgent. While solar and wind are crucial, nuclear energy provides essential baseload power. India, a rapidly growing economy with daily power consumption currently at 500 GW and projected to rise to 700 GW by 2030, must diversify its energy mix. Currently, nuclear power accounts for only about 4% of its capacity, with solar contributing approximately 25%.

Although a large nuclear plant can take a decade to build—compared to under a year for a solar farm—SMRs promise quicker deployment. The greatest bottleneck for solar energy remains expensive and potentially polluting storage technology for nighttime use. While future advancements may solve this, the development of Th-232 SMRs by BARC presents a significant opportunity to reduce fossil fuel dependence immediately. As with all nuclear technology, this must be pursued with stringent precautions against radioactive leakage to ensure safety and public confidence.

DID YOU KNOW?

A full moon with a difference

The full moon has always been an object of serenity associated with charm for poets, literati, and even laypersons. When it loses lustre and presents a night, though temporarily, melancholic thoughts creep in, as penned by various poets and philosophers of the past. This act of the full moon shying away from light, the eclipse, is looked upon as a bad omen, unfortunately.

The inquisitive minds of the past washed off such ideas and eagerly looked forward to the eclipse for a closer understanding. It is the best demonstration for establishing the spherical shape of the Earth. The duration of the eclipse itself is a measure of the extent of the shadow and, therefore, the distance to the moon.

The meticulous follow-ups over centuries revealed two periodicities—one of 176 days and another of 18 years and 11 days. Today, we have the answers in our textbooks.

The earth casts a shadow just as any solid body would do; however, a screen is essential to 'see' the shadow. There is no such screen in the sky, but we would see it when another object, such as the moon, passes into the shadow. Though the Earth is opaque, the atmosphere surrounding it can do many tricks with sunlight. It lets some tiny fraction of the light reach the moon. It scatters the white light—different colours into different directions—directing the red onto the moon in the shadow. Some orange and yellow also sneak through, making the moon look colourful before it turns pale.

The shadow is not as well defined as you would see that of an object held in candlelight. The eclipse commences when the moon enters the penumbral shadow. But the change in its brightness is barely noticeable. The show is for everyone; no prior knowledge of telescopes is required.

The colour of the moon during a total eclipse, when it is in the umbra, tells us about the Earth's atmosphere. For example, a volcanic eruption just before the eclipse fills the atmosphere with thick gas and dust, making it less transparent. The moon will become so dull that it may be impossible even to locate it.

September 7 offers an excellent opportunity to witness this show by the moon. The routine red-orange moon (generally restricted to rising) will have a second show at midnight. By about 10.30 pm, one can see the edges fading; by 11 pm, an orange tint appears. By midnight, it turns pale. What will be the colour? Copper? Orange? Brown? Or just dark and barely visible? Let us watch and verify that it is not 'bloody'. Should we miss this, the next opportunity would be only the last day of 2028!

- Shylaja B S

23 unexplained deaths in Andhra village raise concerns

Suspected bacterial outbreak that causes fever and leads to organ failure under scrutiny

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Concerns are mounting in the Turakapalem village in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur district, where 23 people have died between July and September 3 from unexplained health complications.

The unusual mortality pattern — 10 each in July and August, and three so far in September — in this small community of 1,200 residents has prompted state authorities to launch a comprehensive investigation.

Most victims — predominantly men with an average age of 55 — initially reported fever before rapidly deteriorating and dying of organ failure within days.

Health officials suspect melioidosis—a bacterial infection caused by Burkholderia pseudomallei.

The outbreak has already yielded two confirmed melioidosis cases at a private hospital.

Critical test results from blood samples of 29 symptomatic individuals, currently being analysed at the Guntur Medical College's microbiology laboratory, are expected within the next day or two.

Villagers' accounts

"Our neighbour Katta Deena Raju, who does small private jobs for a living, injured his knee a few days ago. After that, he suddenly developed fever symptoms and visited a hospital. Despite treatment, he died within a week," recounted Korrapati Vinod Kumar, a carpenter in the village that is home to approximately 300 families engaged primarily in small-scale private work.

"The same thing happened to Kauri Raju, who worked as a driver, and Dodda Souribabu, an operator at a nearby stone crusher... We don't know what's happening around us," Vinod told *DH*.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, villagers have raised concerns over their water supply.

"We used water from a nearby stone quarry pit for several months during a local groundwater crisis. These deaths began only after we started using that water source," one resident told *DH*.

Medical analysis revealed that 80% of the deceased had pre-existing conditions, including diabetes, high blood pressure, and kidney ailments.

The response

Andhra Pradesh Director of Medical Education Dr G Raghunandan, who led a medical team to the village on Wednesday, emphasised that definitive answers would emerge once blood test results are reviewed.

Marriage hits dead end over Rolls Royce; SC annuls union

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Supreme Court has dissolved the marriage of an estranged couple whose relationship soured over a 1951 model antique Rolls Royce car—previously ordered by former prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru for the erstwhile "Maharani" of Baroda.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant, Joymalya Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi recorded the settlement arrived at between the parties, according to which the man will pay Rs 2.25 crore to the woman, upon which all claims between them will be settled.

"We dissolve the marriage between the petitioner and respondent 1 (husband). There shall be no relationship, matrimonial or otherwise, between them hitherto," the bench held on August 29.

The woman, who lives in Gwalior, claimed she belongs to a highly reputed family whose ancestor was an admiral in the navy of Chhatarpati Shivaji Maharaj and declared the ruler of the Konkan region.

The husband, on the other hand, belongs to a family of army officers and runs an educational institution in Madhya Pradesh.

A 1951 model antique handmade classic Rolls Royce car, a single model to date and currently valued at over Rs 2.5 crore, ordered by Nehru for the erstwhile maharani of Baroda, became the bone of contention in the dispute.

Fraud case: Lookout notice against Shilpa Shetty, husband

MUMBAI, PTI

The Mumbai police have issued a Lookout Circular (LOC) against Bollywood actor Shilpa Shetty and her businessman husband Raj Kundra in connection with a Rs 60 crore cheating case, officials said on Friday.

Actor Shilpa Shetty with husband Raj Kundra. PTI FILE

The LOC was issued by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the city police as the couple makes frequent international trips, an official said. The case was registered against the actor and her husband at Juhu police station on August 14 for allegedly duping a businessman of nearly Rs 60 crore, he said.

A Lookout Circular is a mechanism used to prevent a person from leaving the country or to track their movements, typically by issuing an alert to immigration and border control points. The case was later transferred to the EOW for investigation.

Sixty-year-old businessman Deepak Kothari, a resident of Juhu, had lodged a complaint in this connection, the official said. Kothari is a director of a non-banking financial company (NBFC) named Lotus Capital Finance Services.

According to the complainant, he came in contact with Kundra and his actor wife through one Rajesh Arya. Kundra and Shetty were directors of Best Deal TV Private Limited. Through Arya, they sought a loan of Rs 75 crore, but to avoid higher taxation, they showed it as an investment.

As per the FIR, the complainant claimed that he transferred Rs 31.9 crore in April, followed by another Rs 28.53 crore in September 2015. Despite providing a personal guarantee in April 2016, Shetty resigned as a director of the company in September that year. Kothari later found that insolvency proceedings were on against firm in 2017.

Branded as 'witch', woman hacked to death in Uttar Pradesh

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

In a shocking incident, a woman was allegedly hacked to death after being branded a "witch" in Uttar Pradesh's remote and tribal-dominated Sonbhadra district.

According to local reports, 52-year-old Rajwanti Devi, a resident of the district's Parsoi village, was attacked with sharp weapons on Thursday night by some other residents of the village, who branded her a "witch" and claimed that she harassed their families.

The accused also allegedly attacked Rajwanti's husband Babulal Kharwar, who sustained serious injuries and was admitted to the district hospital.

Reports said Babulal worked as a labourer while his wife worked in the fields.

A resident of the same village, Gulab, and some others claimed Rajwanti performed occult practices and that she targeted his family.

On Thursday night, Gulab and some others reached Babulal's house and allegedly had an altercation with him.

Reports said Gulab and his acquaintances carried sharp weapons, with which they attacked Babulal and his wife.

Senior police officials rushed to the spot, and the main accused, Gulab, was arrested, said sources.

"The matter, prima facie, appears to be one of old enmity owing to superstitions," said a senior police official in Sonebhadra.

The police said a case was registered in this connection and further investigations were underway.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

ERNIE GOOGLEMAN MARRIED LILY LIPPMAN?! YOU LIKED IT BUT DIDN'T TELL ME?
HUH? I DIDN'T??
BOY, TOOTSIE GOT MAD AT ME FOR "LIKING" THE GOOGLEMAN WEDDING
LIKE WE NEEDED ANOTHER WAY TO GET IN TROUBLE!

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

Peanuts

Marvin

I ALWAYS THOUGHT MABEL AND I WOULD TRAVEL WHEN I RETIRED
BUT THE ONLY TRIPS WE TAKE NOW ARE TO PICK UP OUR PRESCRIPTIONS AT THE PHARMACY

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NGUIF

HLSOS

DCATEH

RIOECZ

I honked my horn! Why is your music so loud?
It's Bohemian Rhapsody. I love that song.
Oh, mamma mia, mamma mia Mamma mia, let me go...
THE DISTRACTED DRIVER HAD THE MUSIC TURNED UP TOO LOUD, WHICH LED TO A ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play.Jumble

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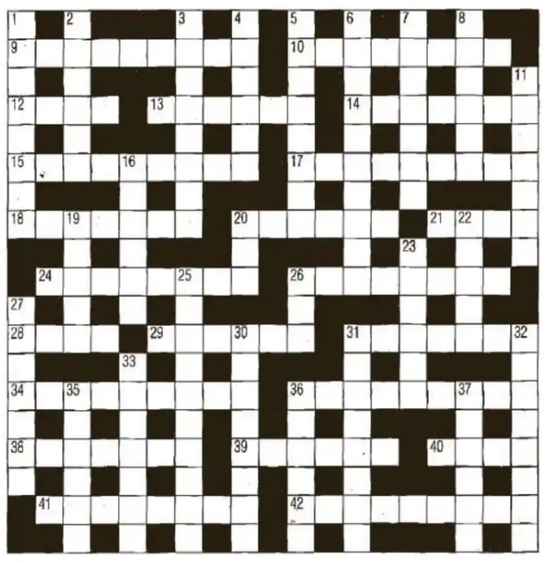
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: " ○○○○○○ - ○○○○ - ○ "

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TALLY WHEAT FURROW TUSSLE
Answer: After buying the antique mirror, she — SAW HERSELF OUT

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 4004



CRYPTIC

ACROSS

9 Obtained from your doctor illicitly? (3-6)
10 A bit of the page the piece appeared on (8)
12 Smelling bad though pickled (4)
13 Keep still while you anaesthetise (6)
14 The current drink (7)
15 No end worried about them recovering (2,3,4)
17 The plant will shoot, given water (9)
18 Secures a quick three points (7)
20 Rubbish! He'd gone through training and was very keen (3-3)
21 So turned again and shot (4)
24 Of late, bank the money in it (8)
26 Determined to, then, contrived to ring the cracked bell (4-4)
28 Got even with fast (4)
29 Taking small steps, leaves a distance between each one (6)
31 What you don't have, if you can't stand sailing (3,4)
34 For something that really appeals, you'll pay it happily (9)
36 Resolved to alter the dates quickly (9)
38 Taking out a picture of (7)
39 About a quarter will get better - truly (6)
40 Cutting, give to surreptitiously (4)
41 Not just any old medicine? (8)
42 A bed warmer? (9)

DOWN

1 Completely detached from the very beginning (5,3)
2 A little sun-beam (6)
3 They haven't scratched from the race for novices (8)
4 Unquestionably, it's the smart thing to do (6)
5 Calmed down and when the food came in followed suit (8)
6 Rubbery bread? (6,4)
7 And teases about the streamers (7)
8 A glue has spilled on the top end, which is a nuisance (6)
11 It's lean, child, covered with cheese (7)
16 Side with one another (6)
19 The foreigner in the plot (5)
20 Fish from the lighthouse (3)
22 Land register (5)
23 On what notices are often on (6)
25 Informing about the unloading (7,3)
26 Partakes of, when one is forced to (3)
27 Locks and leaves (7)
30 Undertake to do it and you'll catch it! (8)
31 Reading out the charming letters? (8)
32 Out East, a bit isolated (3,5)
33 Set free, having a strange hunch about it (7)
35 Having little money, they manage to keep afloat! (6)
36 In extra small, few and far between (6)
37 Concedes the tailless swallow looks very odd (6)

EASY

ACROSS

9 Formal party (9)
10 Taciturn (8)
12 Ship's company (4)
13 Bounded (6)
14 Eccentric, informally (7)
15 Meddle (9)
17 Hasty (9)
18 Heating component (7)
20 Tattered (6)
21 Strong wind (4)
24 Produce (8)
26 Embarrassed (8)
28 Stringed instrument (4)
29 Frightened (6)
31 Fragile (7)
34 Spider (9)
36 Shone (9)
38 Fascinate (7)
39 Unmoored (6)
40 Amaze (4)
41 Slanting (8)
42 Lack of knowledge (9)

DOWN

1 Rehearse (8)
2 Take (6)
3 Hard-working (8)
4 Within (6)
5 Refinement (8)
6 Air (10)
7 Sharpness (7)
8 Hire (6)
11 Praise insincerely (7)
16 Stank (6)
19 Choose (5)
20 Grain (3)
22 Thing of value (5)
23 Run (6)
25 Bookkeeper (10)
26 Miserable (3)
27 Mess (7)
30 Legible (8)
31 Informative meeting (8)
32 Imperil (8)
33 Expand (7)
35 Draw back (6)
36 Pungent edible bulb (6)
37 Observing (6)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12240

CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 1, Wotan 6, Pooch 9, Count-ER 10, Pi-lot 11, Lea-NT 12, Tu-N-is 13,Tenners 15, Lea 17, I-ris 18, Makers 19, Ocean 20, Empire (State) 22, A-Ida 24, Ray 25, Stilt-on 26, S-hut-S 27, Mas-Al 28, Felix 29, Id-eal-ly 30, Wells 31, Osier.
DOWN: 2, O-liver 3, Acorns 4, Not 5, A-NG-U.S. 6, Pelican (crossing) 7, O-res. 8, Canter 12,Trice 13,Tiger 14, Nippy 15, Le-GI-t 16, A-swan 18, Mas-t-s 19, Orchids 21, Manage 22, Alleys 23, DoCI-le 25, St.-ray 26, Sail 28, Flo.

EASY

ACROSS: 1, Sweat 6, Feast 9, Contour 10, Slice 11, Rolls 12, Beats 13, Cordial 15, Ace 17, Epee 18, Fester 19, Cheer 20, Stable 22, Halo 24, Eat 25, Adviser 26, Omits 27, Spine 28, Adage 29, Unhinge 30,Trust 31, Entry.
DOWN: 2, Wallop 3, Accede 4,Toe 5, Steel 6, Further 7, Eros 8, Solace 12, Bathe 13, Cease 14, Resat 15, Atlas 16, Error 18, Feeds 19, Clement 21,Tamper 22, Hidden 23, Ledger 25, Attic 26, Onus 28, Age.

◆SU-DO-KU-6694◆

	6			4		7		9
					3		2	
5			2			8		
8					6		4	2
		5				1		
6	2		4					8
		2			8			1
	9		1					
1		3		2			9	

very hard

SOLUTION TO 6693

9	1	5	8	2	3	4	6	7
8	3	4	7	5	6	9	1	2
7	2	6	1	9	4	3	5	8
5	9	2	4	7	1	6	8	3
4	7	8	3	6	9	5	2	1
3	6	1	2	8	5	7	4	9
1	8	9	5	4	7	2	3	6
6	4	3	9	1	2	8	7	5
2	5	7	6	3	8	1	9	4

To solve the puzzle:
To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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U1	O1	P3	E1	D2	U1	S1	Triple Word Score	RACK 1
U1	C3	D2	O1	L1	O1	O1		RACK 2
Y4	C3	V4	A1	T1	I1	I1	3rd Letter Triple	RACK 3
V4	L1	A1	E1	C3	L1	S1	Double Word Score	RACK 4
S1	U1	U1	L1	J8	T1	Y4		RACK 5

PAR SCORE 60-70
by JUDD

FIVE RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 25 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

P3	U1	N1	I1	L1	Y4	RACK 1 =	11
W4	R1	I1	N1	K5	L1	E1	RACK 2 =	68
R1	U1	P3	T1	U1	R1	E1	RACK 3 =	65
K5	E1	Y4	N1	O1	T1	E1	RACK 4 =	92

PAR SCORE 155-165 JUDD'S TOTAL 236

HITORI-3148

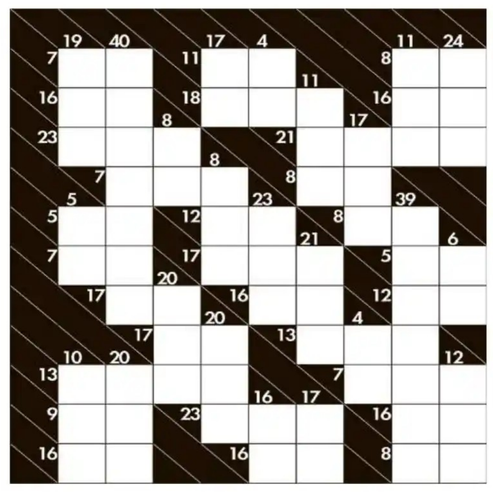
8	5	1	1	1	7	2	4
3	8	5	7	1	2	4	1
8	3	8	2	1	1	1	6
5	1	1	4	8	8	6	7
1	6	2	5	7	4	3	1
2	1	1	4	6	1	8	3
1	7	8	1	2	5	1	8
6	2	1	3	4	4	5	1

SOLUTION TO 3147

2	5	■	7	4	6	3	■
6	■	2	4	■	5	■	3
1	7	■	5	3	8	4	6
■	1	5	8	■	7	■	2
7	4	8	3	6	2	1	■
8	■	3	■	7	■	5	4
■	6	■	2	■	3	8	1
3	8	7	6	1	4	■	5

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3148



SOLUTION TO 3147

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3668

■		7						■
6	8			4		5	3	
		■				1	9	
			4		■			
	4			■	3	6	1	
	6	3	■		■			
		■	8			7		
	■		5		6		■	
■						8		■

SOLUTION TO 3667

9	5	4	6	7	2	8	1	3
2	8	6	3	1	4	9	5	7
3	1	7	5	8	9	2	6	4
7	9	3	1	2	8	5	4	6
1	4	8	7	6	5	3	9	2
6	2	5	9	4	3	7	8	1
8	6	1	2	5	7	4	3	9
5	7	9	4	3	1	6	2	8
4	3	2	8	9	6	1	7	5

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

'34 human bombs': Mumbai on high alert after threat call

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Security was heightened in Mumbai and surrounding areas following a threat call alleging that 34 "human bombs" had been planted in vehicles across the financial capital on the eve of Anant Chaturdashi, the final day of Ganesh idol immersion marking the end of the 11-day Ganeshotsav.

The call was received on the Mumbai Traffic Police WhatsApp helpline. An organisation identifying itself as 'Lashkar-e-Jihadi' claimed that 14 Pakistani terrorists had entered India. The caller claimed that 34 cars carrying human bombs would be used to detonate 400 kg of RDX, with the potential to kill one crore people.

Security measures were ramped up not only in Mumbai but also across the neighbouring districts of Palghar, Thane and Raigad.

In Mumbai, local police stations remain on high alert, while the Crime Branch–CID and the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) have launched a probe to trace the origin of the threat call.

Ganeshotsav, Maharashtra's biggest festival, has officially been declared a state festival from 2025. On Saturday, lakhs of idols will be immersed in the Arabian Sea, rivers and other waterbodies across the state.

Judiciary is bridge between people and Constitution: CJI

NEW DELHI, PTI: Chief Justice of India B R Gavai on Friday said the judiciary served as a bridge between the aspirations of the people and the ideals enshrined in the Constitution.

Speaking at the Nepal-India Judicial Dialogue 2025 in Kathmandu, CJI Gavai underlined the judiciary's task to not only resolve disputes but to also ensure principles of justice, equality, and human dignity were upheld in practice.

"In both countries, the judiciary serves as a bridge between the aspirations of the people and the ideals enshrined in the Constitution. It is tasked not only with resolving disputes but also with ensuring that the principles of justice, equality, and human dignity are upheld in practice," he said.

CJI Gavai said by interpreting the law in light of contemporary challenges, courts could guide the evolution of governance, inspire public trust, and reinforce the idea that democracy was sustained not merely by institutions, but by the values they embodied and exemplified.

Cong to protest against Kerala police over torture case

THRISSUR (KERALA), PTI: The Congress on Friday announced plans to launch a direct protest against five police officers accused of allegedly torturing Youth Congress leader V S Sujith while in custody at a police station in central Kerala two years ago.

Leader of Opposition in the Kerala Assembly, V D Satheesan, said the party would soon decide the future course of protests. "If the government maintains its stance that action has already been taken, the party will not allow these policemen to step out of their houses in uniform," he said.

Border dispute with China India's biggest challenge: CDS

Says nature of wars evolved to include cyber, space domains

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan on Friday described the boundary dispute with China as the country's biggest challenge, along with Pakistan's strategy to "bleed India with a thousand cuts". He also reiterated that the armed forces had "complete freedom" during Operation Sindoor, including autonomy in planning attacks and selecting targets.

Speaking at an event in Gorakhpur, General Chauhan said that the nature of wars had evolved to include cyber and space domains.

Reflecting on the aftermath of the Balakot strikes, he said both India and Pakistan had drawn lessons, albeit differently. While India focused on acquiring long-range strike capabilities and enhancing its ability to assess post-attack damage, Pakistan, possibly, concentrated on strengthening its air defences, he added.

CDS General Anil Chauhan

Gen Chauhan also said that initially India targeted Pak-based terrorist hubs during Operation Sindoor, but later on, after discussions with the political leadership, it was realised that air attacks on Bahawalpur and Muridke were essential.

Stating that war and geo-politics could not be seen separately, Gen Chauhan, quoting a German political scientist, said that "war is an expansion of politics".

Political leadership

"In a democracy, the army operates under the command of the political leadership. It is the responsibility of the armed forces to provide more options to the government whenever the latter considers it necessary to use force in the interest of the country," he added.

"The challenges before the nations are not momentary... I am of the view that the boundary dispute with China is the biggest challenge before the country besides Pakistan's strategy of proxy war to bleed India by a thousand cuts," he said.

Gen Chauhan said that regional instability was also a cause for concern, and almost all of India's neighbours were facing social, political and economic instability.

He said national security was an important subject, viewed differently by people across various fields. "An ambassador focuses on bilateral and multilateral relations, an economist on economic issues... I wear a uniform, and my perspective is different."

Gen Chauhan also invoked the ancient Indian political thinker Kautilya, noting that he had identified four types of threats to a nation: internal dangers, external threats from enemy nations, internal threats supported by external forces, and external threats aided by internal actors.

No comments: India on Trump's 'lost to China' post

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Friday declined to respond to US President Donald Trump's remarks that New Delhi is inching closer to China, even as it rejected as "inaccurate and misleading" White House Trade Adviser Peter Navarro's attack on it for the procurement of Russian crude oil.

"Looks like we have lost India and Russia to deepest, darkest China. May they have a long and prosperous future together!" the US president said on social media.

Trump's latest remarks came days after the bonhomie among Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chinese President Xi Jinping, and Russian President Vladimir Putin at a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the Chinese city of Tianjin drew global attention.

At a media briefing, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal did not respond to questions on Trump's post. "I have no comments to offer on this post at this time," he said, responding to a question.

Jaiswal, however, firmly rejected Navarro's offensive remarks on India in the last few days. "We have seen the inaccurate and misleading statements made by Navarro, and obviously reject them," Jaiswal said.

Last week, Navarro accused India of being an "oil money laundromat for the Kremlin" and described it as "strategic freeloading". New Delhi continues to buy Russian weapons while urging American defence firms to transfer sensitive military technologies and set up manufacturing plants in India.

Jaiswal said India and the US are engaged on issues relating to trade. "The relationship between the US and India is very important for us. Both our countries share a comprehensive global strategic partnership, which is anchored in our shared interests, democratic values and robust people-to-people ties," he said.

The external affairs ministry spokesperson also repeated his previous remarks that the partnership has weathered several "transitions and challenges".

"We remain focused on the substantive agenda that our two countries have committed to, and we hope that the relationship will continue to move forward based on mutual respect and shared interests," he said.

Jaiswal also referred to a joint military exercise that is underway between Indian and American troops in Alaska.

US firm misses schedule to deliver Tejas Mk1A engines

Company now promises to supply 3-5 engines by Oct

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Production of the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft Tejas Mk1A is yet to pick up speed, as engine supplier General Electric has missed its schedule of delivering two F-404 engines in August, even as Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has built 10 of these advanced jets so far, defence sources said.

Following a series of meetings between the US and Indian officials that took place in the past few days, the US major has promised to supply 3-5 engines by October, but fingers are crossed at the Indian end.

GE has supplied two engines so far—the first in March, followed by another in July. The delivery began after a year of delay, impacting the production of the home-grown fighter jets that would replace the ageing MiG-21s in the Indian Air Force.

The last two squadrons of MiG-21s will retire this month, leaving the IAF with just 29 fighter squadrons—its lowest strength in six decades.

Asked to comment on the delay, a GE spokesperson said, "We are tracking to the latest schedule we have shared with HAL."

Sources said HAL has readied two single-engine Tejas Mk-1As with the GE engines that have come so far, and weapon trials are going on. One of the fighter jets is at HAL's Nashik factory, from where it is likely to be handed over to the IAF within the next couple of months.

These engines are required for the Rs 45,000 crore deal that the Defence Ministry had signed in 2021 with HAL to supply 83 LCA Tejas Mk1A to the IAF.

Negotiations on

In a parallel track, commercial negotiations are also going on with GE for the supply of more powerful F-414 engines that will lie at the core of the next-generation combat aircraft like the Tejas LCA-Mk-2 and the fifth-generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft.

An Indian delegation is likely to visit the USA later this month for F-414 discussions with GE, as the two parties are looking at the possibility of closing the deal in 2026.

With the Union Cabinet approving 97 additional Tejas LCA Mk1As, the Indian aviation major would need more F-404 engines, but their supply will start after completing the delivery of the engines for the 82 fighter jets.

Flood-affected villagers gather to collect relief materials, at Talwandi Rai Dadu village of Ajnala, in Amritsar district, on Friday. PTI

22 river stations record severe flood situation: CWC

NEW DELHI, PTI:

The Central Water Commission on Friday warned of widespread flooding across several states, with 22 river monitoring stations reporting 'severe flood' situation and 23 others 'above normal' water levels.

According to the daily flood situation report, eight stations each in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, and one each in Gujarat, Delhi, Jharkhand, Odisha, Rajasthan and West Bengal are in the 'severe flood' category.

Another 23 stations, including in Assam, J&K, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, have recorded 'above normal' water levels.

The Central Water Commission (CWC) said inflow forecasts have been issued for 46 dams and barrages, including 12 in Karnataka, six in Telangana, five in Andhra Pradesh, and several in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Maharashtra and Uttarakhand.

Authorities have been advised to regulate dam operations strictly as per standard protocols to prevent downstream flooding.

The Yamuna river at Delhi's Old Railway Bridge is flowing in a severe flood situation but with a falling trend, and is expected to recede to 207.15 m by Friday night.

In Gujarat, heavy flows are likely to continue for the next two to three days in rivers such as Narmada, Tapi, Damanganga and Sabarmati, prompting high alerts in districts including Bharuch, Surat, Vadodara, Sabarkantha, Banaskantha and Rajkot.

In Rajasthan, rivers like Mahi, Sabarmati, Chambal and Banas are rising, with severe flood warnings in Pratapgarh, Banswara, Udaipur, Kota, Bundi and Jhalawar. Maharashtra is bracing for very heavy rainfall in Dhule, Nandurbar, Palghar, Thane and Pune, which may push rivers such as Tapi, Vaitarna, Bhima and Koyna into severe flood levels.

Uttar Pradesh continues to face a grim situation, with the Ganga, Yamuna, Ramganga and Ghagra rivers flowing above danger levels in districts such as Mathura, Ballia, Shahjahanpur, Barabanki, Farrukhabad and Fatehpur.

Bihar too remains critical, with the Ganga, Kosi, Gandak and Ghagra rivers maintaining severe flood levels in Patna, Bhagalpur, Siwan and Khagaria.

Jaishankar to represent India at BRICS virtual summit

NEW DELHI, PTI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will represent India at a virtual summit of the BRICS grouping that has been convened by Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva next week to discuss trade disruptions triggered by Washington's policies on trade and tariff.

S Jaishankar

The aim of the summit is to create a common approach in dealing with the Trump administration's tariff tussle.

Brazil is the current chair of the BRICS. The 10-member grouping also includes India, China, Russia, South Africa, Indonesia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates.

"The Brazilian chair of BRICS has called for a virtual meeting on September 8," External affairs ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Friday.

"From our side, it will be the external affairs minister who will be participating in the meeting. This BRICS Summit is at the leaders' level," he said at his weekly media briefing.

Lula had dialled Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 7 during which both the leaders pledged to strengthen bilateral trade and energy ties.

The US slapped 50% tariffs on Brazilian exports like in the case of India.

The Brazilian president is likely to discuss the tariff issue at the BRICS virtual summit, according to reports.

We support peace in Ukraine: MEA

NEW DELHI, PTI: India on Friday said it supports an early end to the Ukraine conflict and the return of an enduring peace in the region.

The comments by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) came amid a renewed push by Washington to end the war in Ukraine.

"We welcome all the recent efforts towards establishing peace in Ukraine," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. "We hope that all parties will proceed constructively. India supports an early end of the conflict and the establishment of an enduring peace," he said.

SELF-RELIANCE BOOST

India eyes N-powered carrier, home-built Navy jets

NEW DELHI, REUTERS

India could build its third aircraft carrier, to be nuclear-powered, as part of a 15-year defence modernisation plan announced on Friday that also includes the use of homemade fighter jets by the Navy for the first time.

Bordered by China and Pakistan, both of whom India has clashed with in deadly fights in recent years, New Delhi is increasingly leaning on domestic defence companies to bolster capabilities and cut dependence on foreign suppliers such as Russia, France and the United States.

"As the nation stands on the threshold of embracing greater challenges and responsibilities in the forthcoming decades, it is but imperative that the Services be equipped accordingly," said the Defence Ministry's 2025 roadmap. "Greater private-public sector partnership is thus the road ahead."

India currently operates two aircraft carriers, one of Russian origin and the other home-built. The proposed carrier is expected to be nuclear-powered, a first for India, for longer reach and stealthier operations.

The document outlines the need for at least 10 nuclear propulsion systems to support the carrier and other future warships, underscoring India's ambition to expand its strategic reach across the Indian Ocean.

India also plans to induct an unspecified number of new-generation twin-engine, deck-based fighters and light combat aircraft, both being developed by state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd for the navy.

In April, India signed a deal with France worth Rs 63,000 crore (about $8 billion) for 26 Rafale-Marine twin and single-seat jets, made by Dassault Aviation, to be deployed on its two carriers: INS Vikrant and INS Vikramaditya. India hopes to have 62 Rafale jets in service by 2030.

Telangana tunnel repair set to resume after 6 months

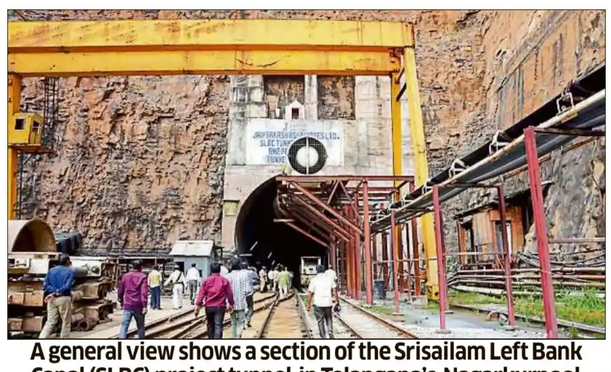
S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

After a gap of nearly six months, the works on the Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) project are set to resume. After a partial roof collapse in February at the tunnel in Telangana's Nagarkurnool district, the state government appointed an 11-member multidisciplinary technical committee in April to conclude rescue operations.

While of the eight trapped workers, the bodies of only two have been retrieved so far, the government has decided to resume work.

The state government has opted for a heli-borne survey to be conducted by the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI). It will identify shear zones, weak rock formations, and fault lines along the remaining alignment, allowing engineers to anticipate risks and prepare corrective measures.

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt N Uttam Kumar Reddy, who chaired a high-level review on Wednesday, said the project must move strictly as per the revised plan and financial estimates, with a target of 175 m of tunnelling per month and overall completion by January 2028.


A general view shows a section of the Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) project tunnel in Telangana's Nagarkurnool district. AFP FILE

The government has recently appointed Lt Gen Harpal Singh, who had earlier worked in the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), as an advisor to oversee the construction of the project. Drawing from his experience with the Atal Tunnel, Lt Gen Singh stressed that ventilation, redundant systems, and documentation of methodology were vital for deep tunnelling works.

Officials confirmed that about 35 km of the 44 km tunnel has already been completed, leaving a balance of nine kilometres to be executed under new technical protocols.

The minister stressed that the methodology, number of passes, and monitoring systems must be clearly defined and documented so that there is complete clarity before work recommences. "We must be 99% sure of what we will encounter. Crisis management cannot be the approach; preparedness is the only option," Uttam Kumar said.

The technical sub-committee has recommended the use of modern technologies and machinery for the completion of the remaining nine kilometres of the tunnel.

Further, junior engineers would be deployed on every shift, maintaining written records of daily progress. A team of young engineers would be formed, trained, and incentivised to develop long-term expertise in tunnel construction. Third-party quality assurance would be strengthened by documenting each shift's progress.

Ajit Pawar sparks row with viral video of slamming officer

MUMBAI, DHNS: Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar has landed in controversy after a video surfaced, in which he was heard rebuking a woman police officer, Anjana Krishna, posted in the Solapur district.

Krishna had gone there to act on complaints of illegal excavation of "murrum" (soil used in road construction). However, villagers clashed with the police party with her. One of the party workers dialled NCP chief Pawar and handed her the phone.

"I am unable to figure out if I am talking to the DyCM. Can you please call me on my number directly?" the officer was heard saying over the phone.

"Just a minute. I will take action against you. I am talking to you in person, and you are asking me to call you directly. You want to see me? Take my number and make a WhatsApp call. How dare you?," said a rattled Pawar.

However, Pawar later said in a brief statement: "Let me state clearly that my intention was not to interfere with law enforcement but to ensure that the situation on the ground remained calm and did not escalate."

Woman Naxal gunned down in Chhattisgarh encounter

RAIPUR, PTI: A woman Naxalite was killed in an encounter with security forces in a forest area along the border of Narayanpur and Dantewada districts in Chhattisgarh on Friday, a senior police official said.

The encounter broke out when a joint team of District Reserve Guard (DRG) from Narayanpur and Dantewada and Special Task Force (STF), both units of the state police force, was out on an anti-Naxal operation along the inter-district border, he said.

"So far, the body of a woman Naxalite has been recovered from the site along with one .303 rifle and two BGL (Barrel Grenade Launcher) launchers and other items of daily use," he said. The operation is still underway, and further information is awaited, the official added.

Police said 230 Naxalites have been killed in separate encounters in Chhattisgarh so far this year. Of these, 209 were eliminated in the Bastar division, which comprises Bijapur, Bastar, Kanker, Konadagaon, Narayanpur, Sukma, and Dantewada districts.

Putin threatens to target any Western troops sent to Ukraine

Agreement on deployment of international troops reached: Zelenskyy

UZHHOROD (UKRAINE), AFP

President Vladimir Putin warned on Friday that any Western forces deployed to Ukraine would be "legitimate" targets for Russia's army, as Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy said "thousands" could be sent as part of a peacekeeping force.

Two dozen countries, led by France and Britain, pledged Thursday to join a "reassurance" force on land, at sea and in the air to patrol any agreement to end the war, unleashed by Russia's February 2022 invasion.

Tens of thousands have been killed in three-and-a-half years of fighting, which has forced millions from their homes and destroyed much of eastern and southern Ukraine in Europe's bloodiest conflict since World War II.

Kyiv says security guarantees, backed by Western troops, are crucial to any pace deal, in order to ensure Russia does not re-invade in the future.

"If some troops appear there, especially now during the fighting, we proceed from the premise that they will be legitimate targets," Putin said at an economic forum in the far eastern city of Vladivostok.

He added that the deployment of such a force was not conducive to long-term peace and said Ukraine's closer military ties with the West were one of what he calls the "root causes" of the conflict.

Ukraine's allies have not revealed any specific details of the plan, including how many troops it would involve and how specific countries would contribute.

Zelenskyy said Friday there was an agreement for "thousands" of troops, but did not give a specific figure.

"It will definitely not be single digits, but in the thousands. And that is a fact, but it is still a little too early to talk about it," he said during a press conference with European Council President Antonio Costa in western Ukraine.

In Kyiv, foreign ministry spokesman Georgiy Tykhy slammed Putin's rejection of the deployment.

"He's not the one to decide. Putin has made a mistake by deciding that he can place his troops across the border in Ukraine, and now it is none of his business whom Ukraine invites to its territory to protect its security," he said at a briefing in response to a question by AFP.

Russian President Vladimir Putin delivers a speech during a plenary session of the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok, Russia, on Friday. REUTERS

French President Emmanuel Macron said Thursday that 26 countries had "formally committed -- some others have not yet taken a position -- to deploy as a 'reassurance force' troops in Ukraine, or be present on the ground, in the sea, or in the air."

The ground troops would not be deployed "on the front line", Macron said, but would be there in a bid to "prevent any new major aggression".

Despite the West and Ukraine advancing preparations for a possible peacekeeping force, there are few signs Kyiv and Moscow are close to striking a deal.

Multiple rounds of diplomacy have failed to yield anything more than prisoner exchanges.

Moscow is calling for Ukraine to cede even more territory and wants international recognition of regions captured and occupied by its forces as part of Russia.

Kyiv has ruled the demands out as "old ultimatums".

Putin and Trump could meet again soon: Kremlin

MOSCOW, REUTERS: Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President Donald Trump could meet again in the near future, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Friday. "I have no doubt that if the presidents consider it necessary, their meeting can be organised very quickly," Peskov said.

Pakistan, China launch second phase of CPEC, ink $8.5 bn deals

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Pakistan and China have formally launched the second phase of the controversial China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project and signed 21 agreements and joint ventures worth about $8.5 billion.

The MoUs were signed in Beijing on Thursday, on the concluding day of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's visit to China, when he met with Chinese Premier Li Qiang and attended an investors' conference.

According to the Dawn newspaper on Friday, the agreements covered cooperation in the development of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) 2.0, as well as in areas like science and technology, information technology, media, investment, and agriculture.

The total worth of the MoUs and joint ventures is about $8.5 billion, it said. The PM Office in an official statement said during talks with Li, Shehbaz described the meeting as "most productive". "Both sides also agreed to continue working closely on the next phase of the upgraded CPEC 2.0, with its five new corridors," it said.

India opposes the CPEC project, which will link Xinjiang in China and the Gwadar port in Pakistan's Balochistan, as it passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) .

Charnvirakul elected Thai PM in parliamentary vote

BANGKOK, AP/PTI

Veteran Thai politician Anutin Charnvirakul was elected prime minister on Friday after winning a parliamentary vote, according to an official tally.

The leader of the Bhumjaithai party won a total of 311 votes, far exceeding the 247 required majority from the House of Representatives' 492 active members. He and his government are expected to take office in a few days after obtaining a formal appointment from King Maha Vajiralongkorn.

Anutin, 58, succeeds Paetongtarn Shinawatra, who was dismissed by court order as prime minister last week after being found guilty of ethics violations over a politically compromising phone call with neighbouring Cambodia's Senate President Hun Sen.

A border dispute between the two nations erupted into a deadly five-day armed conflict in July. Anutin, who's an elected member of the House, got up from his seat and walked around the chamber to take pictures with other lawmakers when he was a few votes short of the winning total.

Anutin told reporters as he exited Parliament to visit his father in a hospital that he would work hard to solve the country's problems. "I intend to work with my full capability," he said. "I must work every day and make the most out of it, with no day off." Videos published by Thai media showed Anutin laughing as he hugged his father who said he was "very happy to see this day."

Bhumjaithai Party leader Anutin Charnvirakul in Bangkok on Friday. REUTERS

Anutin had served in Paetongtarn's Cabinet, but he resigned his position and withdrew his party from her coalition government after news of the leaked phone call caused a public uproar.

Pheu Thai, currently leading a caretaker government, sought to dissolve Parliament on Tuesday, but its request was rejected by the king's Privy Council. The party's nominee for prime minister, Chaikasem Nitisiri, received 152 votes.

Anutin had served in the Pheu Thai-led coalition government that took power in 2023 and before that in the military-backed elected government under former Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha.

Suu Kyi's health worsening: Son

REUTERS: Myanmar's detained former leader Aung San Suu Kyi is suffering from worsening heart problems and needs urgent attention, her son said on Friday. Kim Aris said his mother, in military custody, had asked to see a cardiologist, but the request may not have been granted.

US detains hundreds of Koreans in immigration raid

SEOUL, AFP

Hundreds of South Koreans were detained during a major US immigration raid on a Hyundai-LG battery plant being built in the state of Georgia, prompting Seoul to urge Washington on Friday to respect its citizens' rights.

South Korea, Asia's fourth biggest economy, is a key automaker and electronics producer with multiple plants in the United States.

Its largest companies, including carmaker Hyundai and tech giant LG, have poured billions of dollars into developing new US factories.

On Thursday local time, US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raided the "site of a (South Korean) company's battery plant in Georgia", South Korean foreign ministry spokesperson Lee Jae-woong told reporters. "Multiple Korean nationals were detained," he said.

A source familiar with the matter, who was not authorised to speak publicly, told AFP that around 300 South Korean nationals had been detained.

Lee said that for South Korea "the economic activities of our investors and the legitimate rights and interests of our nationals must not be unjustly infringed in the course of US law enforcement". Seoul said it had sent diplomatic staff to the site and ordered them to establish a task force to address the situation.

India will be at negotiating table in a month or two: Lutnick

India is the vowel in BRICS, must choose sides: US commerce secy

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, PTI

Terming India the 'vowel' between Russia and China in the BRICS grouping, US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick on Friday said New Delhi will be at the negotiating table and will try to strike a deal with President Donald Trump in the coming months.

"So, I think yes, in a month or two months, I think India is going to be at the table, and they're going to say they're sorry, and they're going to try to make a deal with Donald Trump," Lutnick said in an interview with Bloomberg. "And it will be on Donald Trump's desk how he wants to deal with (Narendra) Modi, and we leave that to him. That's why he's the President," he added.

Criticising India for its purchases of Russian oil, Lutnick said that before the Russian conflict, India bought less than two per cent of its oil from Russia and "now they're buying 40% of their oil from Russia.

"What they're doing is, because the oil is sanctioned, it's really, really cheap because the Russians are trying to find people to buy it. And so the Indians have just decided, 'Ah, the heck with it. Let's buy it cheap and make a ton of money'," he said.

Describing this as "just plain wrong" and "ridiculous", Lutnick said India needs to decide which side it wants to be on. When asked if the US is willing to negotiate with India, he said, "We're always willing to talk."

He went on to say that "the Chinese sell to us. The Indians sell to us. They're not going to be able to sell to each other. We are the consumer of the world. People have to remember, it's our $30 trillion economy that is the consumer of the world. So eventually they all have to come back to the customer."

He said that India doesn't yet want to open its market, stop buying Russian oil and stop being a part of the BRICS.

"They're the vowel between Russia and China (in BRICS). If that's who you want to be, go be it. But either support the dollar, support the United States of America, support your biggest client, who is the American consumer, or I guess you're going to pay a 50% tariff. And let's see how long this lasts," he said.

When asked about the "hardening of the line" between Trump and Prime Minister Modi, and whether he saw any type of deal in the next 1–2 months, Lutnick cited the example of Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, who was elected on a promise to fight America but eventually dropped his retaliatory tariffs.

US President Donald Trump holds an executive order on tariff increases as Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick looks on at the White House in Washington, DC. REUTERS FILE

Looks like we've lost India and Russia to 'darkest' China: Trump

WASHINGTON, REUTERS: US President Donald Trump on Friday said India and Russia seem to have been "lost" to China after their leaders met with Chinese President Xi Jinping this week, expressing annoyance at New Delhi and Moscow.

"Looks like we've lost India and Russia to the deepest, darkest China. May they have a long and prosperous future together!" Trump wrote in a social media post accompanying a photo of the three leaders together at a summit in China.

Asked about Trump's post, India's foreign ministry told reporters that it had no comment. The Chinese foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment, and representatives for the Kremlin could not be reached.

Xi hosted over 20 leaders of non-Western countries for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in Tianjin, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Putin and Modi were seen holding hands at the summit as they walked toward Xi before all three men stood side by side.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my clientproposes to purchase the below mentioned Properties from SHRI. K.CHANNAREDDY, S/o. Late.Krishna Reddy, aged about 51 years, Residing at No. 397,Doddathoguru, Opp. Velankani Company Gate – 2, Electronic City Post, Bangalore – 560 100, who has represented that he is the owner of the Schedule Property. Any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase and persons who are having any right, title or interest in the below mentioned properties including by way of any agreement or otherwise shall lodge his/her/their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within Fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication, failing which it shall be presumed that the title of the aforesaid owner to the Schedule Property is clear, marketable and free from encumbrance/s of any kind whatsoever and no other person has any right, title or interest in the Schedule Propertyor any part thereof. Further, claims or alleged interest or objections, if any, which are not received within fifteen days from the date of publication of this notice shall be considered to have been consciously waived or abandoned for all intents and purposes and shall no longer be binding.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of an immovable land bearing portion of Survey No.77 measuring 01 Acre situated at Arenur Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, and bounded on:

East by : Survey No. 96 belongs to R. Muniswamy Reddy;
West by : Property belongs to Paul Raj;
North by : Property belongs to Muniyappa;
South by : Property belongs to Chowda Reddy.

M. KALASHREE, Advocate
M. KALASHREE & ADVOCATES
No.29, 3rd Cross, Vinayaka Layout, Bhoopasandra, Bangalore – 560094.
Date:05-09-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my client proposes to purchase the below mentioned Properties from SHRI. R. MUNISWAMY REDDY, S/o. Late. B. Ramareddy, aged about 60 years, Residing at #3, Chikkathimmasandra Village,Muthanallur, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore – 560 099, who has represented that he is the owner of Item No.1 and Item, No.2 which is more fully described as Schedule Properties. Any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase and persons who are having any right, title or interest in the below mentioned properties including by way of any agreement or otherwise shall lodge his/her/their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within Fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication, failing which it shall be presumed that the title of the aforesaid owner to the Schedule Properties is clear, marketable and free from encumbrance/s of any kind whatsoever and no other person has any right, title or interest of any nature whatsoever in the Schedule Properties or any part thereof. Further, claims or alleged interest or objections, if any, which are not received within fifteen days from the date of publication of this notice shall be considered to have been consciously waived or abandoned for all intents and purposes and shall no longer be binding.

SCHEDULE PROPERTIES

ITEM No: 1: All that piece and parcel of a immovable land bearing Survey No.77 measuring 01 Acre situated at Arenur Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, and bounded on:

East by : Survey No. 96 belongs to Shivappa Reddy;
West by : Property belongs to Dore Swamy;
North by : Property belongs to Chowda Reddy;
South by : Property belongs to Narayana Reddy.

ITEM No: 2: All that piece and parcel of a immovable land bearing portion of Survey No.77 measuring 30 guntas situated at Arenur Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, and bounded on:

East by : Property belongs to Anjanappa;
West by : Property belongs to Government Halla;
North by : Property belongs to Thogatara Krishnappa;
South by : Property belongs to Kuri Narayanappa

M. KALASHREE, Advocate
M. KALASHREE & ADVOCATES
No.29, 3rd Cross, Vinayaka Layout, Bhoopasandra, Bangalore – 560094.
Date:05-09-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that my clientproposes to purchase the below mentioned Properties from SHRI.RAJENDRA PRASAD, S/o. Late.Shamanna, aged about 56 years, Residing at No. 10, Koogur Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore – 562125, who has represented that he is the owner of the Schedule Property. Any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase and persons who are having any right, title or interest in the below mentioned properties including by way of any agreement or otherwise shall lodge his/her/their objections and/or claims with the undersigned along with supporting documentary evidence within Fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication, failing which it shall be presumed that the title of the aforesaid owner to the Schedule Property is clear, marketable and free from encumbrance/s of any kind whatsoever and no other person has any right, title or interest of any nature whatsoever in the Schedule Property or any part thereof. Further, claims or alleged interest or objections, if any, which are not received within fifteen days from the date of publication of this notice shall be considered to have been consciously waived or abandoned for all intents and purposes and shall no longer be binding.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of a immovable land bearing portion of Survey No.77 measuring 01 Acre situated at Arenur Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, and bounded on:

East by : Property bearing Survey No. 96;
West by : Property belongs to Doreswamy;
North by : Property belongs to Rajendra Prasad;
South by : Property belongs to Narayana Reddy

M. KALASHREE, Advocate
M. KALASHREE & ADVOCATES
No.29, 3rd Cross, Vinayaka Layout, Bhoopasandra, Bangalore – 560094.
Date:05-09-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client namely **Mr. M.NEELAKANTA NAIDU** S/o. Gangamma Naidu, aged about 82 years, Residing at: No.381, 12th Cross, 4th D Main, West of Chord Road, 2nd Stage, Mahalakshmipuram Layout, Bangalore North-560086, he is intends to purchase the schedule property from **Mr. Y. DHANASEKARAN** S/o. A.V. Yessian, **Smt. A. JAYASHEELA**, W/o Y. Dhanasekaran, **Ms. SHARON SHINY .D** D/o Y. Dhanasekaran **Mr. SUMAN D SHEKAR** S/o Y. Dhanasekaran, Aged about 29 years, All are residing at: No.256/3, Peace Church, Peace Garden, Bagalur, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore- 562149, Any person/s who claims any right, title or interest of any nature or any lien / charge or enforceable right in relation to the schedule property If any objection of any nature to the transaction should lodge such claim/objection in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documents within **7 days** thereof, failing which it will be presumed that no valid claim/s or objections subsists and our client would proceed to complete the sale transaction with the present owner thereof subject to compliance of statutory and legal formalities.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of immovable land bearing Sy No.256/3, measuring 2 acres i.e., L shape out of 2 acres 27 guntas, situated at: Bagalur Village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, having the following boundaries: **East by:** Land belongs to Anjinappa, **West by:** Road, after remaining portion of same survey number 256/3, **North by:** Two feet passage from Cementary towards West to East direction from Main road, after Meesaganahalli Bachchappa Property, **South by:** Land belongs to Rajana and remaining portion of sale survey number 256/3

MURTHY .A, Advocate
No.1, 5th Main, Opp. Big Market & ICICI Bank, Bagalur Main Road, Vinayakanagar, IAF Post, Bangalore-63.
Phone: 9620511295. Date: 06/09/2025

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION WORK

Divisional Store Office Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms/Contractors for the following works. **Tender No. 96255568. Sr. No.: 1. PL No (Item Code): 509022780010. Item Description / Warranty / Inspection / Type**: Supply of 02 channel Voice Data Recording and Processing Unit (VDRPU) as per RDSO/SPN/TC/38 - 2002 Ver 2 or Latest. [**Warranty Period**: 30 Months after the date of delivery). [**Inspection Agency**: TPI, **Stage Insp**.: No. Stages:0]. [**UVAM Linking**:]. **Item Type**: Goods (supply). **Quantity**: 12. **Unit**: Nos. **Consignee**: Sr. Section Engineer TELE CTO SUR, CR (Maharashtra). **Sr. No.: 2. PL No (Item Code): 565172845786. Item Description / Warranty / Inspection / Type**: Supply and Installation of 02 channel Voice Data Recording and Processing Unit (VDRPU) as per RDSO / SPN / TC / 38 - 2002 Ver 2 or Latest. [**Warranty Period**: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [**Inspection Agency**: TPI, **Stage Insp**.: No, **Stages**: 0]. [**UVAM Linking**:] **Item Type**: Goods (supply). **Quantity**: 58. **Unit**: Nos. **Consignee**: Sr. Section Engineer TELE CTO SUR, CR (Maharashtra). **Sr. No.: 3. PL No (Item Code): 609902300085. Item Description / Warranty / Inspection / Type**: Supply and installation of VHF Receiver to record communication with in the radio coverage area of station VHF equipment. Note: VHF based Secured communication equipment has in-built VHF radio which is configured on DG (Driver Guard) frequency to record communication. If Railways also wants to record communication on SHY frequency simultaneously, then this is required per location. [**Warranty Period**: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [**Inspection Agency**: TPI, **Stage Insp**.: No, **Stages**: 0]. [**UVAM Linking**:] **Item Type**: Goods (supply). **Quantity**: 58. **Unit**: Nos. **Consignee**: Sr. Section Engineer TELE CTO SUR, CR (Maharashtra). **For all the above tenders: Earnest Money**: Rs.4,09,860/-. **For all the above tenders: Date & Time of Closing of all above Tender on www.ireps.gov.in: 11.09.2025 after 11:30 hrs**. The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in**

DE/Sur-62

रेल्वे फाटक को बंध स्थिति में पार करना मना है

F.No.A-50013/294/2021-E-IV
Government of India
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation

Polvaram Project has been declared a National Project under section 90 (1) of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014. For regulation and development of Polavaram Project, a special project vehicle (SPV) i.e. Polavaram Project Authority and its Governing Body was established vide Gazette Notification dated 28.05.2014. The Polvaram Project Authority (PPA) is a statutory body under the Chairmanship of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to be appointed by the Central Government from amongst officers at Level-15 in the pay matrix (Rs. 1,82,200-2,24,100/-) of the Government of India, with a fixed tenure of at least 3 years.

2. The Ministry of Jal Shakti (Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation) had invited applications for the one post of Chief Executive Officer in Polavaram Project Authority on deputation basis (including short term contract) in the Pay Level-15 (Rs.1,82,200-2,24,100/-). The vacancy was initially published in the Employment News edition dated 01-07 March, 2025 and the last date of receiving applications was subsequently extended for 30 days from the date of issue/publishing of the advertisement in the Employment News edition dated 24-30 May, 2025. The post is now being re-advertised. However, applicants, who have already applied earlier, need not re-apply.

3. Details of the post, eligibility conditions etc., are available at **jalshakti-dowr.gov.in; dopt.gov.in** and **ppa.gov.in.** Applications complete in all respects of suitable and eligible officers and who can be spared immediately in the event of selection may be sent through proper channel to:- **"The Under Secretary (Estt.IV),** Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Room No.435, Shram Shakti Bhavan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001" and by email at **use4-mowr@nic.in** and **soe4-mowr@gov.in.** within a period of 45 days from the date of issue/ publishing of this Advertisement in the Employment News.

4. Advance copies of application or application received after the prescribed period or not accompanied with the requisite information/ documents are liable to be rejected.

Sd/- (Narayanan Bhattadiri K.P.)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

CBC 45101/11/0002/2526

PRECIOUS ELIXIR

Scientists tap 'secret' fresh water under ocean, raising hopes for thirsty world

ABOARD LIFTBOAT ROBERT (NORTH ATLANTIC), AP/PTI

Deep in Earth's past, an icy landscape became a seascape as glaciers melted and oceans rose off what is now the northeastern United States. Nearly 50 years ago, a US government ship searching for minerals and hydrocarbons in the area drilled into the seafloor to see what it could find. Unexpectedly, it found drops fit to drink beneath the briny depths — fresh water.

This summer, a first-of-its-kind global research expedition followed up on that surprise. Drilling for fresh water beneath the salt water off Cape Cod, Expedition 501 extracted thousands of samples from what is now thought to be a massive, hidden aquifer stretching from New Jersey as far north as Maine.

It is just one of many depositories of "secret fresh water" known to exist in shallow salt waters around the world that might one day be tapped to slake the planet's intensifying thirst, said Brandon Dugan, the expedition's co-chief scientist. "We need to look for every possibility we have to find more water for society," Dugan, a geophysicist and hydrologist at the Colorado School of Mines, told Associated Press journalists who recently spent 12 hours on the drilling platform. The research teams were looking in "one of the last places you would probably look for fresh water on Earth."

They found it, and will be analysing nearly 50,000 litres of it back in their labs in the coming months. They hope to solve the mystery of its origins — whether the water comes from glaciers, connected groundwater systems on land, or some combination. The potential is enormous. So too are the hurdles of extracting the water and how to obtain it without undue harm to nature. It may take years before such water can be brought ashore for public use on a large scale, if it is even feasible.

Why try? In just five years, the UN warns, global demand for fresh water will exceed supply by 40%. Rising sea levels are contaminating coastal freshwater sources, while data centres that power AI and cloud computing are consuming water at an insatiable rate. The fabled Ancient Mariner's lament, "Water, water, every where, nor any drop to drink," looms as a warning to landlubbers as well as sailors on salty seas.

UK's Dy PM Angela Rayner resigns

LONDON, PTI: Angela Rayner on Friday resigned as the United Kingdom's Deputy Prime Minister and Housing Secretary after a sped-up independent ethics inquiry concluded that she had underpaid tax on a recently bought home.

Rayner, 45, a powerful leader within the Labour Party, handed in her resignation after the inquiry concluded that she had breached the Code of Conduct by failing to seek out specialist tax advice to ensure she paid the correct stamp duty on the property on the south coast of England.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer appointed Foreign Secretary David Lammy as Deputy Prime Minister to replace Rayner. Lammy, 53, has been promoted to the post of Deputy PM with additional charge as Justice Secretary.

Vedanta beats Adani Group with Rs 17K cr bid to acquire JAL

Jaiprakash Associates is caught in insolvency proceedings

NEW DELHI, PTI

Mining conglomerate Vedanta on Friday beat Gautam Adani's Group to make a winning bid for the acquisition of debt-ridden Jaiprakash Associates (JAL) for Rs 17,000 crore, according to sources.

The bid value translates into Jaiprakash Associates' net present value of Rs 12,505 crore.

JAL, which has interests in real estate, cement, power, hotels and roads, has been dragged into insolvency proceedings after it defaulted on payment of loans.

Lenders of JAL conducted a challenge process for the sale of the company under the IBC.

Multiple bidders participated in the process, but in the end, firm bids were placed by only two entities, Adani and Vedanta Group.

Vedanta eventually made a winning bid of Rs 17,000 crore, which translated into a NPV (net present value) of Rs 12,505 crore, beating Adani Group, sources said.

The Committee of Creditors (CoC) meeting was held on September 5 to conduct the challenge process.

Financial creditors have claimed a staggering Rs 57,185 crore in unpaid dues.

The National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) leads the list of claimants after acquiring the stressed JAL loans from a consortium of lenders headed by the State Bank of India.

Anil Agarwal & Gautam Adani

In April this year, as many as 25 companies showed interest in acquiring JAL.

However, in June, JAL announced that it has received five bids along with earnest money for the acquisition of the company through insolvency process.

Adani Enterprises, Dalmia Bharat Cement, Vedanta Group, Jindal Power and PNC Infratech had submitted bids to acquire JAL.

JAL was admitted to the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) through the National Company Law Tribunal, Allahabad Bench, order dated June 3, 2024. It was taken to insolvency proceedings after the conglomerate defaulted on the payment of loans.

JAL has major real estate projects like Jaypee Greens in Greater Noida, a part of Jaypee Greens Wishtown in Noida (both on the outskirts of the national capital), and the Jaypee International Sports City, strategically located near the upcoming Jewar International Airport.

It also has three commercial/industrial office spaces in Delhi-NCR, while its hotel division has five properties in Delhi-NCR, Mussoorie, and Agra.

JAL has four cement plants in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, and a few leased limestone mines in Madhya Pradesh. The cement plants, however, are non-operational. It also has investments in subsidiaries, including Jaiprakash Power Ventures Ltd, Yamuna Expressway Tolling Ltd, Jaypee Infrastructure Development Ltd, and several other companies.

Jaypee Group's another company Jaypee Infratech Ltd has already been acquired by Mumbai-based Suraksha Group through insolvency process.

Existing and new insurance buyers exempt from GST

Employer-sponsored policies will continue to attract 18% GST

MAHESH KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Individual insurance buyers have got a major relief from the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council as the GST on term and health insurance has been exempted completely. Currently, the GST rate is 18% on both term and health insurance. This change will apply to premiums on all individual life insurance whether pure protection, unit-linked, and to individual health insurance, including family floater and senior citizen plans.

Most importantly, existing policyholders are also exempt from paying GST on renewal premiums from September 22 onwards, thereby lowering their financial burden. This is particularly beneficial in health insurance, where rising medical costs have been a concern, said Alok Agarwal, MD and CEO, Zurich Kotak General Insurance Company (India) Limited.

For insurers, while there may be short-term adjustments in pricing and compliance, the long-term impact is positive as lower entry costs will improve penetration, encourage first-time buyers, and support the overall growth of the insurance sector, Agarwal added.

While the exemption is extended to existing policyholders, it is, however, limited to individual covers only. "Group insurance policies, such as employer-sponsored health or life schemes, will continue to attract 18% GST with no ITC available to the employers. This makes it clear that the policy intent is to directly ease costs for households rather than institutional buyers," said Jignesh Ghelani, Partner at Dhruva Advisors.

While lower premiums are expected to stimulate demand and expand the policyholder base, the classification of these services as "exempt" means that insurers will lose access to input tax credits on expenses linked to such policies. Insurers will be required to reverse input tax credits relating to these exempt outputs, he said.

"The GST Council's decision to exempt health insurance premiums while allowing insurers to utilise input tax credits is a landmark step that combines consumer benefit with industry growth. This will make health protection more affordable for millions of families, senior citizens, and small businesses who often find premiums to be a stretch," said Rakesh Jain, CEO, Reliance General Insurance.

Tata to cut PV prices from Sep 22

NEW DELHI, PTI: Tata Motors on Friday said it will cut passenger vehicle prices ranging between Rs 65,000 and Rs 1.45 lakh effective September 22 to pass on the full benefit of GST reduction to customers.

The company said that its small car Tiago will see a price drop of Rs 75,000, Tigor Rs 80,000, and Altroz Rs 1.10 lakh. Similarly, the price of compact SUV Punch will come down by Rs 85,000 and that of Nexon by Rs 1.55 lakh. Mid-sized model Curvv would also see a price cut of Rs 65,000, Tata Motor said, in a statement.

Rupee hits record low on tariff jitters, but central bank caps decline

MUMBAI, REUTERS

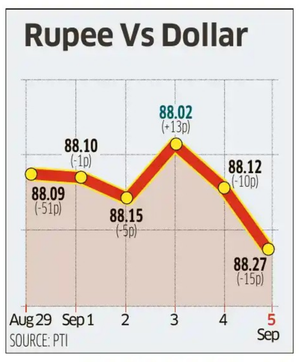
The Irupee hit a lifetime low on Friday, pressured by worries over US tariffs, leaving traders on edge even as likely central bank intervention helped limit losses.

The currency fell 0.14% to 88.2650 against the US dollar, from 88.1450 in the previous session.

Friday's move ended a volatile week, during which the rupee largely stayed below the 88-mark, weighed down by persistent portfolio outflows and US tariff-related uncertainties.

Washington imposed a 50% tariff on key Indian exports from August 27 over what the White House sees as India's opportunistic purchases of cheap Russian oil.

The rupee, which slipped past the 88-mark for the first time last week, slipped to its record low of 88.36 on Friday, as foreign banks and oil companies bought dollars and traders covered speculative positions.



Foreign portfolio investors have pulled out $1.4 billion from Indian equities so far in September, taking the total outflow so far this year to over $16 billion.

On the day, the Reserve Bank of India likely intervened in the forex market through state-run banks, which were spotted selling dollars above the 88.30 mark, traders said.

Market participants expected support for the rupee at 88.70 levels, but the RBI came in much earlier to cap the slide, said Apurva Swarup, a vice president at Shinhan Bank.

"Uncertainty around US tariff is still spooking the market even as the Indian government is devising ways to counter the impact," Swarup said.

India hopes to conclude a bilateral trade agreement with the US by November.

Meanwhile, Asian currencies strengthened against the dollar as traders positioned for a Federal Reserve rate cut this month. The Korean won led gains.

The dollar index was 0.22% lower at 98.014. Traders await the U.S. non-farm payrolls data, due after market hours.

Apple's India sales hit record $9 billion after big retail push

BLOOMBERG: Apple Inc's annual sales in India hit a record of nearly $9 billion in the last fiscal year, signaling growing consumer demand for its flagship devices as the company ramps up its retail footprint in the world's most populous country.

Revenue rose about 13% in the 12 months through March from $8 billion a year earlier, according to a person familiar with the matter, who declined to be named as the information is private. Apple's marquee iPhones accounted for a majority of the sales, and demand for MacBook computers also surged.

The outsized jump — which hasn't been previously reported — is a boost for the Cupertino, California-based company at a time it's grappling with plateauing mobile device sales around the world. While India represents still a fraction of its overall business, the company is investing in a country it expects to become a key market in coming years.

That's particularly important given volatile consumption in and geopolitical uncertainty around China, today its largest overseas base. Revenue from China gained 4.4% in the June quarter — but that was only its first rise in two years, and it's lost market share there to local rivals like Xiaomi Corp.

India's 3rd Apple Store opened in Hebbal this week.

Apple did not respond to requests for comment.

As part of its retail push in India, Apple just added two new stores in the cities of Bangalore and Pune this week. It's also is planning to launch a new outlet in Noida, on the outskirts of Delhi, and another in Mumbai early next year.

Dassault buys 2% stake in JV with Rel Infra, taking majority control

REUTERS: Reliance Infrastructure said its unit would sell a 2% stake in its Indian joint venture to its partner, Dassault Aviation, making the French fighter plane maker a majority owner of the firm with a 51% stake.

The deal will fetch the Anil Ambani group company - which will hold a 49% stake - Rs 176 crore (nearly $20 million) and is expected to be closed by November 1, Reliance Infrastructure said in an exchange filing on Friday. Dassault Reliance Aviation currently makes parts for the Rafale fighter aircraft used by India's air force, as well as some components for Dassault's Falcon 2000 business jets.

IIDEA protests against mass layoffs by TCS

BENGALURU, DHNS: The IT & ITES Democratic Employees Association (IIDEA) held a demonstration in front of TCS' Whitefield campus in Bengaluru on Friday to protest against mass layoff of 12,261 employees by the company.

It also protested against the exploitative new deployment policy of the company that forces employees to maintain 225 billable days a year, the IIDEA said in a statement.

IIDEA also raised concerns about TCS' recruitment practices. Over 500 professionals, who had received offer letters with joining dates in July 2025, are still waiting without clarity. Many of them left previous jobs for TCS and now face financial and professional uncertainty.

"We believe automation and AI should improve work-life balance, not destroy livelihoods. Instead of firing workers, TCS should reskill employees, reduce excessive work hours, and ensure job security during technological transitions," IIDEA said.

The association also demanded to stop layoffs immediately and not to force employees to resign under false claims, provide fair severance, healthcare, and transition support.

L&T Semicon acquires power module design assets of Fujitsu

NEW DELHI, PTI: Chip design firm L&T Semiconductor Technologies on Friday said it has acquired the power module design assets of Fujitsu General Electronics of Japan.

As part of the deal, L&T Semiconductor Technologies (LTSCT) has acquired R&D equipment, design patents and various intellectual properties related to power module technologies of Fujitsu General Electronics (FGEL).

"The acquisition of power module technology is a crucial step in LTSCT's growth journey and an important step towards our vision of enhancing India's presence in the global semiconductor ecosystem. This significantly strengthens our global intellectual property portfolio, and enhances our design capabilities, thus reinforcing our commitment to delivering world-class semiconductor solutions globally," LTSCT Chief Executive Sandeep Kumar said.

The acquisition will accelerate LTSCT's foray in power electronics design and development and expand its product portfolio in the domains of industrial, energy and automotive applications.

"We are sure that this transfer will ensure the continued development and expansion of cutting-edge power module technologies, benefiting global customers and driving industry-wide advancements," FGEL Director and COO Tadashi Hasegawa said.

KVB cuts lending rate by 10 bps across all tenors

NEW DELHI, PTI: Private sector Karur Vysya Bank on Friday reduced the marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR) by 10 basis points (0.10 percentage points) across all tenors, making loans linked to the benchmark cheaper.

The benchmark one-year tenor MCLR, which is used to price most consumer loans like auto and personal, will be at 9.45% against the existing rate of 9.55%, Karur Vysya Bank said in a regulatory filing.

Among others, the rate of one-month, three-month, and six-month tenors will be in the range of 9.30-9.45 per cent. The MCLR on overnight tenor will be 9.15% against 9.25%.

Colive, Sattva Group, Bain Capital to set up fund to build rental homes

NEW DELHI, PTI: Co-living space provider Colive has set up a $100 million platform in partnership with Bain Capital and realty firm Sattva Group to develop rental homes.

In a statement, the company said it has formed a partnership with Bain Capital and Sattva Group to establish a pan-India co-living real estate platform with an initial commitment of at least $100 million.

The platform will acquire land, develop communities, and deliver purpose-built rental housing across India's largest urban centres.

"As part of the partnership, Colive also raised $20 million in strategic funding, spearheaded by Bain Capital, with strong backing from long-term partner Sattva Group," the statement said.

Colive would use $20 million for growth of its business.

The platform, managed by Colive, has completed initial land acquisitions in Pune and Bengaluru, with nearly 0.5 million sq ft of Coliving spaces under development.

Don't Miss Tomorrow's DH on Sunday

DECCAN HERALD

BIG PICTURE
Parenting teens: A high-wire balancing act!

BOOKS
The messy candour of Elizabeth Gilbert's memoir.

ART & PURSUITS
Walls that speak: The art of chittara.

GENDER
Women entrepreneurs are leading the charge in upcycling.

TRAVEL
Australia's south-west is a land of rolling dunes and lush forests.

WELLNESS
Ayurvedic practices can complement modern medicine.

Follow Us

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Yelahanka, Bangalore – 560064
E - TENDER NOTICE No: RWF/M/OT/MMS/2025-26/40 Dated: 01/09/2025

E - TENDER: On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website http://www.ireps.gov.in (Works)

Tender No.: RWF/M/OT/MMS/2025-26/40 Dated: 01/09/2025, Name of the work : Need Based Maintenance of Thermal Sand Reclamation Plant (TSRP). Estimated Cost : Rs. 19,91,926.16, Earnest Money Deposit : Rs. 39,800.00, Date & Time of Closing of Tenders : 23.09.2025 at 10:30 Hrs, Completion Period : 24 Months.
DY. CME/Melting

TENDER NOTICE No: RWF/M/OT/MWFPS/2025-26/42 dtd. 03/09/2025

Tender No.: RWF/M/OT/MWFPS/2025-26/42 dtd. 03/09/2025, Name of the work : Need based maintenance of cleaning Machine No.1 & 2 and peening machine No.1& 2. Estimated Cost : Rs. 14,60,992.00, Earnest Money Deposit : Rs. 29,200.00, Date & Time of Closing of Tenders : 25.09.2025 at 10:30 Hrs. This tender notice can be viewed on our website www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in
DY. CME/W-II

Government of Karnataka
Minor Irrigation and Ground water Development Division, Chitradurga
NO.EE/MI&GWD DIV/CTA/PB1/SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION: 07/2025-26 DATE:03-09-2025.

SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

K.W.- 4 (TWO COVER SYSTEM)

Item rate tender in Two cover system as per KTPP act-2000 with latest amendments is invited from the eligible contractors registered in KPWD (KW-1, 2, 3 & 4) (Amount put to Tender Rs-679.19 Lakhs) for the 01 work through KPPP-procurement portal.

Tender documents may be downloaded from KPPP-Portal website :https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 06-09-2025 Last Date & Time for enquiries about tender 18-09-2025 upto 5.30 P.M., Last Date for submission of Tenders 19-09-2025 upto 4.00 P.M. Opening of Technical bid Date: 20-09-2025 after 04.30 P.M (If possible). Opening of Finanical bid Date 22-09-2025 after 04.30 P.M (If possible). Tenders may be submitted along with EMD and tender fee (Mode of payment should be online only as prescribed in website). Amount mentioned in KPPP-portal is final for the amount put to tender & the E.M.D. Additional Information regarding works may be obtained from the Division Office during office hours & from KPPP-Portal help desk No+91-8046010000+91-8068948777 & support@eprochelpdesk.com

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/330/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MI, Chitradurga

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(www.kpwd.gov.in)

Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Bangalore Division, 2nd Floor, PWD Annexure Building, K.R. Circle, Bangalore - 01
Telephone No. 080-22133370, Email ID: eepwdbngdn@yahoo.com
E-Portal : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home

Tender Notification No. 17/2025-26 DATED: 04.09.2025

Item-rate tenders, for the work in PWD, Hoskote, Devanahalli, Nelamangala, Doddballapura, No.1 South, No.2 North & Anekal Sub Divisions under this office noted below, are invited by the undersigned on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka in accordance with Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement rules 2000 and as per Standard Tender Documents for procurement of works from the contractors registered in K.P.W.D. as per KPPP. Tender Notification are Published for 63 work **(Rs. 6.00 to 50.00 Lakhs)** Details of the tender works can be obtained from the above Office during office hours on working days. EMD & Tender processing fees are mentioned in KPP portal.

1. Tenders must be submitted online through KPP portal on or before **11.00 AM on Dated: 15.09.2025**
2. The opening of tenders through KPP portal on Dated: **16.09.2025 at 11.30 AM** or further date and time will be Intimate.

For more details contact this office.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD, Bangalore Division, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/2665/Zen/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಚಿವಾಲಯ, ವಿಕಾಸಸೌಧ,
ಡಾ॥ ಬಿ.ಆರ್. ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ವೀಧಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಸಿಐ 80 ಎಸ್‌ಪಿಕ್ಯೂ 2025 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 24.07.2025

1996ರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆಯ ವಿಧಿ 28(4) ರಡಿ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ

1996ರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ (1966ರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:18) ವಿಧಿ 28(1)ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ದತ್ತವಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಿಐ 268 ಎಸ್‌ಪಿಕ್ಯೂ 95 ದಿನಾಂಕ: **30.09.1995** ರಂತೆ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟ ಪ್ರದೇಶದ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಜಮೀನುಗಳನ್ನು ಇದೇ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಹೇಳಿರುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಇಚ್ಚೆಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ.

ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆಯ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಜಮೀನುಗಳನ್ನು ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನ ಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬೇಕಾಗಿರುವುದು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರಕ್ಕೆ ಮನದಟ್ಟಾಗಿದೆ.

ಆದುದರಿಂದ, 1966 ರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರದೇಶಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ವಿಧಿ 28(4)ರ (1966ರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 18) ದತ್ತವಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರದ ಮೇರೆಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಜಮೀನುಗಳನ್ನು ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದೆಂದು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಘೋಷಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅನುಸೂಚಿ

ಗ್ರಾಮ : ಅಡಕನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ : ಚಿಕ್ಕಯ್ಯನ ಛತ್ರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು : ನಂಜನಗೂಡು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ : ಮೈಸೂರು

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.	ಖಾತೆದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು	ಅನುಭವದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು	ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ (ಜಂಟಿ ಅಳತೆಯಂತೆ)			ತರಹೆ	ಆಕಾರ	ಚಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ (ಜೆ.ಎಂ.ಸಿ. ಯಂತೆ)			
				ಒಟ್ಟು ಎ–ಗು	ಖರಾಬು ಎ–ಗು	ಬಾಕಿ ಎ–ಗು			ಪೂರ್ವ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.	ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.	ಉತ್ತರ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.	ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1	81 ರ ಪೈಕಿ	ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಹುಚ್ಚೇಗೌಡ	ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಬಿನ್ ಲೇಟ್ ಹುಚ್ಚೇಗೌಡ	2–00	–	2–00	–	–	ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.81ರ ಉಳಿಕೆ	ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.81ರ ಉಳಿಕೆ	ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.81ರ ಉಳಿಕೆ	ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.81ರ ಉಳಿಕೆ
2	81 ರ ಪೈಕಿ	ವಸಂತ ಕೋಂ ಲೇಟ್ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಜು	ವಸಂತ ಕೋಂ. ಲೇಟ್ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಜು	2–00	–	2–00	–	–	ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.81ರ ಉಳಿಕೆ	ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.81ರ ಉಳಿಕೆ	ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.81ರ ಉಳಿಕೆ	ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.81ರ ಉಳಿಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.183
			ಒಟ್ಟು	4–00	–	4–00						

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಆದೇಶಾನುಸಾರ ಮತ್ತು ಅವರ ಹೆಸರಿನಲ್ಲಿ
(ಸಿ.ವಿ. ಹರಿದಾಸನ್)
ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಅಧೀನ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ,
ವಾಣಿಜ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕೈಗಾರಿಕಾ ಇಲಾಖೆ (ಕೈ.ಅ)

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/ಶಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/917/2025–26

IN BRIEF

Mandaviya launches mascot & logo

▸ Sports minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday launched the mascot 'Jalveer' and logo for the upcoming 11th Asian Aquatics Championship scheduled to be held in Ahmedabad from September 28 to October 11, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Jhingan goes through surgery

▸ Star India defender Sandesh Jhingan has successfully undergone surgery for a cheekbone fracture which he sustained while playing in the CAFA Nations Cup in Tajikistan, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Jhingan suffered the injury during India's group match against Iran.

Kennedy pulls out of Worlds

▸ Olympic pole vault gold medallist Nina Kennedy pulled out of the world championships on Friday with a strained muscle having just recovered from a hamstring operation, reports AFP from Sydney.

Raise A Buck wins main event

MYSURU RESULTS

Raise A Buck, from the stables of Rakesh and ridden by Antony Raj, won the HH Sri Krishnaraja Wadiyar Memorial Trophy, the feature event of the Mysuru races on Friday.

1. Virija Plate - 1100M: Armament (Ranjeet Shinde) Abhishek Mhatre 1; D Golden Cup (Vinod Shinde) 2; Miracle Honey (Ayaz Khan) 3; Fashionista (Aleemuddin) 4; Wb: 1/2, 3/4L, Shd. T: 1:06.66. TB: Ranjeet Shinde. Fav: Nimble Spirit.

2. Pune Plate -1100M: Splendid Dream (DR Thacker) Shreyas Singh 1; Midnight Blue (Vikrant) 2; Republican Star (Rayan Ahmed) 3; Natural Look (Ankit Pal) 4; Not Run: Adalard. Wb: 2-1/2, 3-3/4, 1L. T: 1:05.63. TB: Suleiman Attaollahi. Fav: Splendid Dream.

3. Somanathpur Plate (Div II) - 1400M: Power Of Gold (Mukul Sonawala) Akshay Kumar 1; Gandolfini (Srinath) 2; Verrazzano (RN Darshan) 3; Carter (Rayan Ahmed) 4; Not Run: Chinky Pinky. Wb: 1/2, 2-1/2, 3/4L. T: 1:25.51. TB: Darius Byramji. Fav: Power Of Gold.

4. JH Foley Memorial Trophy - 1600M: Small Dreams (Vikram Sreeram) Shreyas Singh 1; Elfin Knight (Trevor) 2; Winfield (Antony Raj) 3; N R I Victory (Rayan Ahmed) 4; Wb: 1/2, 1, 2-1/4L. T: 1:36.46. TB: MP Vishesh. Fav: Elfin Knight..

5. HH Sri Krishnaraja Wadiyar Memorial Trophy - 1400M: Raise A Buck (Mrs GK Harini) Antony Raj 1; African Gold (Akshay Kumar) 2; Mandarino (Arvind Kumar) 3; Champions Way (Yash Narredu) 4; Wb: 1, 2-1/4, 2-1/4L,. T: 1:22.32. TB: Rakesh. Fav: African Gold.

6. Lavasa Plate - 1400M: Crosswater (Dilip Thomas) Antony Raj 1; Don Carlos (Trevor Patel) 2; Mazal Tov (Akshay Kumar) 3; Spectacular (Kuldeep Singh) 4; Wb: , 1/2, 2L. T: 1-24.78. TB: Arjun Mangalorkar. Fav: Don Carlos.

7. Somanathpur Plate (Div I) - 1400M: Monterio (V.Shankar) Antony Raj 1; One Nation (Srinath) 2; Ancient History (Chetan Kalay) 3; Carat Love (Mukesh Kumar) 4; Not Run: Blue Origin. Wb: 5-1/4, 3-3/4, 3/4L. T: 1-25.11. TB: Pradeep Annaiah. Fav: Carat Love.

Bengaluru dividends:
I race: Rs 28w; 10, 19, 15p; Fc: Rs 299; Q: Rs 172; Shp: Rs 50; Thp: Rs 40; Tri: Rs 877 & 268; Ex: Rs 1,978 & 1,589.
II race: Rs 15w; Rs 11, 13, 15p; Fc: Rs 44; Q: Rs 33; Shp: Rs 28; Thp: Rs 34; Tri: Rs 69 & 39; Ex: Rs 172 & 102.
III race: Rs 21w; 14, 28, 16p; Fc: Rs 119; Q: Rs 74; Shp: Rs 55; Thp: Rs 34; Tri: Rs 435 & 177; Ex: Rs 1,209 & 347.
IV race: Rs 492w; 50, 10, 17p; Fc: Rs 2,720; Q: Rs 1,216; Shp: Rs 38; Thp: Rs 40; Tri: Rs 6,152 & 3,076; Ex: Rs 50,986 & 21,851.
V race: Rs 130w; 20, 11, 12p; Fc: Rs 574; Q: Rs 185; Shp: Rs 37; Thp: Rs 45; Tri: Rs 1,380 & 660; Ex: Rs 7,306 & 4,175.
VI race: Rs 75w; 17, 11, 15p; Fc: Rs 232; Q: Rs 57; Shp: Rs 48; Thp: Rs 37; Tri: Rs 235 & 145; Ex: Rs 2,886 & 1,767.
VII race: Rs 34w; 13, 11, 26p; Fc: Rs 103; Q: Rs 48; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs 65; Tri: Rs 800 & 362; Ex: Rs 710 & 183.
Jackpot: Rs 1,96,417 (2). **Runner-up:** Rs 28,059 (6). **I treble:** Rs 2,300 (4).
II treble: Rs 6,021 (3).

◆ ON TV ◆

HOCKEY

Men's Asia Cup: Korea vs Malaysia **(5:00 pm)**; India vs China **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 1.**

Women's Asia Cup: Thailand vs Singapore **(2:15 pm)**; Japan vs India **(4:30 pm)**; Korea vs Chinese Taipei **(2:15 pm)**; China vs. Malaysia **(4:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 2.**

FOOTBALL

FIFA WC qualifiers: Republic of Ireland vs Hungary; San Marino vs Bosnia-Herzegovina; Belgium vs Kazakhstan **(all 12:15 am on Sunday)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Network.**

TENNIS

US Open: Women's final **(12:30 am on Sunday)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar.**

MOTORSPORT

Formula 1: Italian GP **(practice 3, 4:00 pm; qualifying, 7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode, F1 TVPro.**

HOCKEY ASIA CUP

Wary India hope to quell China

Sitting atop in the Super 4s stage, Fulton's men look to book final spot

HITA PRAKASH
RAJGIR, DHNS

Having built the momentum gradually, Indian team takes on China in their final Super 4 match in Men's Asia Cup on Saturday. PTI

The Chinese team was the one everybody knew they had to be wary of even before the start of the Asia Cup here in Rajgir.

Living up to those apprehensions, the world No. 25 have displayed fearless hockey and troubled higher-ranked opponents. Call it punching about ones weight or playing true to their potential, captain Jungjun Lee and his men have ensured nobody takes them lightly.

And India, aware of what the neighbours bring to the table, have certainly not. After getting a taste of the Chinese onslaught in the Pool A opener - where the hosts escaped with a tense 4-3 win - the Harmanpreet Singh-led side once again face familiar foes in their final Super 4s contest on Saturday.

With a 2-2 draw against defending champions Korea and a comprehensive 4-1 win over 12th-ranked Malaysia on Thursday, world No. 7 India are on top of the table with four points and will be eyeing a win to seal a spot in the final.

Though a draw would be enough, a victory is what coach Craig Fulton would like to carry on his back before walking into the title clash scheduled for Sunday where a trophy and a World Cup berth awaits.

"I know we're playing well, we're in a good place," Fulton had said after India's win against Malaysia.

"It's just, some days, whatever happens, happens. But it doesn't stop the way that we are playing. We have enough chances, the boys are fit, they are strong. So, it's just about getting it right in the moment. I can't tell you how that works in one game and it doesn't work in another game. It's literally life's biggest mystery because it happens. And it happens to the best of teams, it happens to us too."

What the South African was trying to stress upon was the chances created by Indians were not converted into expected results in the first four matches. But it all came together on Thursday. Tighter defence line, strikers getting the job done with minimal blemish and the midfielders championing the forward line.

India will look to replicate the same against China.

Well aware of the confidence brewing within the Indian outfit, this time, it will be the nimble-footed, low block-playing Chinese who are sure to be wary of the home side with another packed house in the stands cheering them on.

The first time India played China at the 10-day event here, they were coming off seven losses out of eight at the European leg of the FIH Pro League and were desperate to prove a point. On Saturday, the process-oriented Indian side, having discovered the missing balance, will hope to reinforce their position.

Malaysia eye final

In the other Super 4s game, Malaysia, on three points with a win and a loss, take on Korea, who have a draw and a loss in their kitty.

With the top two teams from the Super 4s stage qualifying for the finals, Malaysia look the better of the two teams as the five-time title winners Korea have struggled throughout the event, also enduring a shock 0-3 loss to China on Thursday.

India decimate Thailand in opener

Udita, Beauty net braces in crushing 11-0 victory

Navneet Kaur

HANGZHOU, PTI

Udita Duhan and Beauty Dung Dung scored a brace each as India began their campaign in the women's Asia Cup hockey tournament with a 11-0 thrashing of Thailand here on Friday.

Udita scored in the 30th and 52nd minutes from penalty corners while Dung Dung struck in the 45th and 54th minutes.

India's other goal-scorers were Mumtaz Khan (7th minute), Sangita Kumari (10th), Navneet Kaur (16th), Lalremsiami (18th), Thoudam Suman Devi (49th), Sharmila Devi (57th) and Rutaja Dadaso Pisal (60th).

India, currently ranked ninth in the world, led 5-0 at half time in the Pool B match against the 30th-ranked Thais.

India got a total of nine penalty corners, out of which they converted five, while Thailand did not earn any PC.

India asserted their dominance early on with two field goals from Mumtaz and Sangita in the first quarter. The second quarter saw India being more menacing in attacks and the team added three more goals to extend its advantage.

Experienced forward Navneet and mid-fielder Lalremsiami scored a field goal each in quick succession, followed by a penalty corner conversion from Udita just before the half time break.

The second half followed a similar trend as India continued their constant attacks inside Thailand's circle.

India won four penalty corners in the third quarter, and Dung Dung converted one PC in the 45th minute.

India shifted gears in the final quarter, pumping in five more goals to seal a big win. Mumtaz, Udita and Sharmila scored through penalty corners while Dung Dung and Rutuja struck field goals.

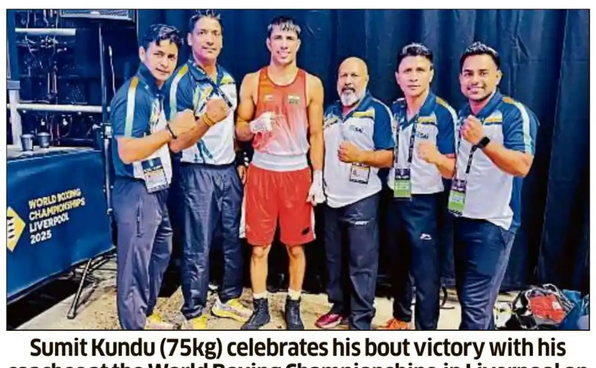
K'taka girls attend FIFA workshop

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's Sai Divyashree and Hemanshi Gour attended the Capacity-Building workshop for Female Administrators, organised by the Federation International de Football Association (FIFA) and All India Football Federation (AIFF) in Delhi from September 2 to 4.

The workshop served as a platform to educate on topics surrounding administration in football, ranging from Safeguarding, PR, media management, competition management as well as grassroots development. The sessions were delivered by various FIFA experts and AIFF officials.

Sumit, Phogat start strong

LIVERPOOL, PTI



Sumit Kundu (75kg) celebrates his bout victory with his coaches at the World Boxing Championships in Liverpool on Friday. WFI

Indian boxer Sumit Kundu produced a commanding performance to advance to the round of 16 at the World Boxing Championships with a unanimous decision win over Jordan's Mohammad Al Hussein in the men's middleweight category here on Friday.

One of the most promising pugilists in the country, Sumit seized control from the opening bell as he immediately claimed the centre of the ring and forced Al Hussein on the defensive.

Both boxers traded clean punches, but Sumit was relentless and his heavier shots and precise backhand repeatedly pierced the Jordanian's guard.

By the end of the second round, the Indian had built a commanding lead, and though he eased off in the final minutes of the bout, the verdict was never in doubt.

The Army man will now face a stiff challenge in the round of 16 against reigning European champion and Paris Olympian Rami Kiwan of Bulgaria, who received a first-round bye.

In the women's 65kg competition, Neeraj Phogat too made a winning start, edging past Finland's Krista Kovalainen 3-2 in a tense split-decision contest.

Earlier, Sanamacha Chanu powered into the women's 70kg pre-quarterfinals with a 4-1 win over Denmark's Ditte Frostholm late on Thursday.

Using her height to close the distance, Sanamacha landed a series of heavy blows that unsettled her experienced opponent. The Manipuri boxer will next face World Boxing Cup gold medallist Natalya Bogdanova of Kazakhstan.

However, it was disappointment for heavyweight boxer Harsh Choudhary, who exited in the first round of the men's 90kg after suffering a referee-stopped contest (RSC) defeat to Poland's Tutak Adams.

Asian Games medallist Narender Berwal (90+kg) and Commonwealth Games medallist Jaismine Lamboria (57kg) will open their campaign later in the day.

Zaman, Abrar shine as Pak reach tri-series final

SHARJAH, AFP: Fakhar Zaman cracked a robust 77 and spinner Abrar Ahmed registered career-best figures as Pakistan reached the T20I tri-series final with a 31-run win over United Arab Emirates on Thursday.

Zaman hit an aggressive 44-ball 77 not out for his 12th T20I half century while Mohammad Nawaz smashed an undefeated 27-ball 37 to revive Pakistan from 80-5 Pakistan to 171-5 in their 20 overs.

Abrar then grabbed 4-9 in four economical overs to restrict UAE to 140-7 with opener Alishan Sharafu fighting a lone hand, scoring a steady 51-ball 68.

Sharafu hit four sixes and as many fours.

The win, Pakistan's third in four games, not only took Pakistan to Sunday's final but also ensured Afghanistan who face the hosts in the last group on Friday, would advance.

Brief scores: Pakistan:171/5 in 20 overs (Fakhar Zaman 77, Mohammad Nawaz; Haider Ali 2-17) bt UAE:140/7 in 20 overs (Alishan Sharafu 68, Abrar Ahmed 4-9). **Result**: Pakistan won by 5 runs; **PoM**: Abrar Ahmed.

New Zealand great Taylor to play for Samoa

WELLINGTON, AP

Ross Taylor. INSTAGRAM

New Zealand cricket great Ross Taylor will come out of retirement to play for Samoa at the Twenty20 World Cup qualifying tournament in Oman next month.

Taylor retired from international cricket in 2022 after playing more matches for New Zealand than any other player: 112 Tests, 236 One-Day Internationals and 102 T20 internationals.

He remains second behind Kane Williamson on New Zealand's all-time Test scoring list with 7,683 runs and second, also behind Williamson, with 19 Test centuries.

Taylor's mother, Lote, was born in Samoa. Taylor will play under his given names and chiefly title as Leaupepe Luteru Ross Poutoa Lote Taylor.

Now 41, Taylor answered the call of his friend, former Black Cap Tarun Nethula, to join Samoa at the qualifying tournament. Samoa will play Papua New Guinea for a place at next year's T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka.

"It's quite a powerful thing when players are asking you to come out of retirement and help them," Taylor told the Stuff news website.

"I'm no spring chicken but I'm sure I'm still fit enough to run around the boundary."

Secretary's XI fight back to take control vs Gujarat CA

BENGALURU, DHNS: After labouring to 211/7 on day 1, the KSCA Secretary's XI called the shots on an intriguing second day against Gujarat Cricket Association in the Dr (Capt) K Thimmappiah memorial tournament here on Friday.

Gujarat bowlers struggled to wrap the tail as Rajvir Wadhwa mustered a solid 80 while Venkatesh M made a useful 50, helping the Secretary's XI to finish at 373 all out in their first innings.

After a valiant batting effort by the lower order, the Secretary's XI reduced their opponents to 73 for five wickets to gain control.

Jasper shines

In another fixture, Jasper EJ notched up 87 as KSCA President's XI posted 250 all out in 91.5 overs against Maharashtra Cricket Association.

Brief scores: At Kini Sports: KSCA Secretary's XI: (O/n: 211/7): 373 all out in 149.4 overs (Nikin Jose 81, Tushar Singh 42, Samit Dravid 45, Venkatesh M 50, Rajvir Wadhwa 80; Japagnya Bhatt 3-47, Drushant Soni 2-74, Hemang Patel 2-56, Vishal Jaiswal 3-89) vs Gujarat Cricket Association: 73/5 in 26 overs (Priyesh Patel 30).
At SJCE KSCA Colts: 140 all out & 135/7 in 32 overs (Aneeshwar Gautam 36; Vipin Sharma 4-40) vs Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association: (O/n: 134/1): 303 all out in 91.1 overs (Ankush Bains 96, Siddhant Purohi 68, Akash Vashisht 53, Mukul Negi 33).
At SDNRW: Andhra Cricket Association: 257 all out in 83.5 overs (Revanth Reddy 101, Yara Sandeep 64; Atit Sheth 3-49, Ninad Rathwa 5-92, Mahesh Pithiya 2-62) vs Baroda Cricket Association: (O/n: 20/1): 285/6 in 96 overs (Jyotsnil Singh 50, Shashwat Rawat 28, Sukrit Pandey 81 n.o., Ninad Rathwa 62; Mitesh Patel 30 n.o.; KSN Raju 3-47).
At M Chinnaswamy Stadium: Goa Cricket Association: 211 & 104/2 in 29 overs (Suyash Prabhudesai 29, Ishaan Gadekar 51) vs Vidarbha Cricket Association: (O/n: 39 for no loss): 208 all out (Atharva Taide 50, Darshan Nalkande 55, Nachiket Bhute 34; Rutvik Naik 3-38, Vijesh Prabhudesai 3-52, Mohit Redkar 2-4).
At Alur 2: KSCA President's XI: 250 all out in 91.5 overs (Jasper EJ 87, Karthik SU 32, Harsha Wardhan Khuba 32, Adithya Nair 34; Nadeem Shaikh 4-49, Akshay Waikar 2-78, Satyajeet Bachhav 3-57) vs Maharashtra Cricket Association: 14/0 in 4 overs. **At IAF:** Chhattisgarh State Cricket Sangh (187/6 in 68.1 overs (Prateek Yadav 36, Shashank 27, Shashank Chandrakar 39, Sahban Khan 47 n.o.) vs KSCA XI: 169/7 in 61.4 overs (Smaran R 47, Shreyas Gopal 38; Sourabh Majumdar 4-43).
At Alur 3: Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association: (O/n: 77/1): 333/8 in 123 overs (Yash Dubey 38, Arshad Khan 102; Rana Datta 2-20, Bikram Debnath 2-39, Sandip Sarkar 3-77) vs Tripura CA

South Africa edge England in thriller to clinch series

LONDON, AFP: Matthew Breetzke **(in pic)** became the first batsman in One-Day International history to start his career with five consecutive scores of fifty or more as South Africa beat England by just five runs for a series-clinching win at Lord's on Thursday.

Victory gave the Proteas an unbeatable 2-0 lead in a three-match ODI campaign, with Breetzke's 85 the cornerstone of their imposing 330-8.

England, skittled out for just 131 in Tuesday's series opener in Leeds, kept hitting all the way down the order before, needing 16 to win off the last over, they were held to a total of 325-9.

Joe Root and Jos Buttler both made 61, with rising star Jacob Bethell hitting a quick-fire 58 and tailender Jofra Archer 27 not out.

But with South Africa fast bowler Nandre Burger raking 3-63, the Proteas just had enough in reserve in a match that produced a huge total of 655 runs.

This game also lasted the full 100 overs, unlike the first ODI at Headingley, which was wrapped up inside 46.

The series concludes at Southampton on Sunday.

Brief scores: South Africa: 330/8 in 50 overs (Matthew Breetzke 85, Tristan Stubbs 58; Jofra Archer 4-62) bt England: 325/9 in 50 overs (Joe Root 61, Jos Buttler 61, Jacob Bethell 58; Nandre Burger 3-63). **Result**: SA won by 5 runs lead three-match series 2-0. **PoM**: Matthew Breetzke.

'You can't keep Samson in reserves'

NEW DELHI, PTI

Sunil Gavaskar hopes Sanju Samson will be handed the No. 3 slot in India's T20I side in the upcoming Asia Cup. PTI FILE PHOTO

If someone of Sanju Samson's calibre is picked in an Indian squad of 15, then he surely can't be kept out while selecting the playing eleven in the upcoming Asia Cup, feels legendary Sunil Gavaskar, who wants to see the Kerala dasher bat at No.3 behind Abhishek Sharma and Shubman Gill.

Once Gill came back into the T20 set-up as vice-captain, it was a foregone conclusion that he would get his opening slot back. The team management now has a tricky call on hand while deciding whether to keep Samson in the playing XI finding a slot for him in top three or play Jitesh Sharma, who is more familiar with finisher's role.

"If you take somebody like Sanju Samson in the core team, then you can't leave him out in the reserves," Gavaskar said in an interaction arranged by Sony Sports Network ahead of the tournament starting September 9 in the UAE.

"Yes, I think it's a very good headache to have for any selection committee that you have two capable batters and somebody like Sanju Samson who can maybe even bat at three and if needed come down at six as a finisher.

"And Jitesh has also done well in the recently concluded IPL where he's played exceedingly well. So yes, I think it's a pleasant headache for the tour selection committee," he added.

The 76-year-old feels that Samson will at least get a couple of matches if not more. India will open against United Arab Emirates on September 10.

"But my feeling is that maybe Samson will probably get the nod ahead of Jitesh for at least the first couple of games. And then depending on what his form is for the rest of the tournament. But this is what I think will happen," said the former Indian skipper.

Gavaskar is of the opinion that it could be one among Rinku Singh or Shivam Dube, who might have to sit out.

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DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Whose story is it anyway?

The debate on inspiration versus appropriation in films is back

Page C

Messi hits a brace in home farewell

Amid emotional scenes, striker plays last match in Argentina

Page D

DIY projects using plastic bottles

Page B

THE SATURDAY STORY

Trigonometry and adventure went into the charting of India and measuring the world's tallest mountain. Shruthi Rao and Meera Iyer recount how the historic effort began in Bengaluru

How triangles mapped India

The Kempegowda Tower in Ramana Maharshi Park on Ballari Road has several GTS benchmarks etched on its steps.

It was a bright, sunny morning sometime in 2010 in Kannuru, then on the outskirts of Bengaluru. One of us, Meera, followed waste management expert Almitra Patel as the 74-year-old ducked under branches and brushed past thorny shrubs, chatting about how her children used to clamber over the stone structure in front of us. It was an odd building, wreathed in wild vegetation, part hexagon and part rectangular, and with a gaping entrance. A circular pit inside was lined with stones but was far too small to be a well. A groove about a foot wide ran along two of the walls. Even more curious, the stone staircase from the terrace ended some two metres above the ground. Almitra had once met some scientists pottering about there, who told her it was part of an old survey.

Turns out the 1868 stone building was an observatory, part of the Great Trigonometrical Survey (GTS) of India, an ambitious mission to map the Indian subcontinent using scientific precision. This Survey didn't just map India using triangulation, but also measured the height of the Himalayas (and determined that Mt Everest was the highest mountain in the world). It also played a major role in geodesy — measuring the shape of the Earth.

Triangulation is a technique that makes use of the properties of a triangle. If you know the length of one side and two of the angles, you can calculate the lengths of the other two sides using simple trigonometry. A location can then be determined by measuring angles to it from both ends of a fixed baseline.

We outline all this and more in our recent book 'India in Triangles: The Incredible Story of How India was Mapped and the Himalayas Measured' (Penguin Random House India).

The Great Trigonometrical Survey observatory in Kannuru, Bengaluru, before it was restored by INTACH in 2021. It was demolished by an unidentified person last year.

Testing in Bengaluru

This gargantuan project had its beginnings in our own Bengaluru. It all began in October 1800, when William Lambton, an officer in the East India Company's army, established his first baseline. It was about 12 km long, and ran from near Haralur in the south to Ramamurthy Nagar in the north.

Or perhaps it began even earlier. The GTS was Lambton's brainchild. He followed a scientific debate about geodesy at the time, and wanted to understand exactly how the Earth was shaped at the tropics. He wanted to draw accurate maps of the subcontinent. In 1799, the idea of preparing good maps aligned perfectly with the East India Company's expansionist policies. They approved Lambton's project and he began working on it in Bengaluru.

The first order of business was a trial project which lasted almost two years. Lambton and his team began by taking bearings (angles measured from a fixed point) and calculating distances to landmarks and locations familiar to all of us. These were the first triangulations of the survey. One of the first recorded data points was the bearing to the Kempegowda Tower near Ballari Road. They calculated distances to temples and trees, and to all the hills that circle the city, including Savanadurga, Bettahalasur, Nandi Hills and Shivasandra. Lambton continued triangulating all the way to Srirangapatna, where he established another baseline, still as part of the initial tryout.

Madras milestone

In April 1802, when some long-awaited equipment finally arrived from England, Lambton headed over to Chennai. That is where the survey officially began. Lambton established a 12.2 km baseline that ran from the Madras Race Club in Guindy to a point near Sholinganallur.

Then began triangulations. They hauled the so-called Great Theodolite up and down hills and towers. This instrument, used for measuring angles both horizontally and vertically, infamously weighed half a tonne. They lugged the equally heavy telescope called the Zenith Sector across forests, villages and streams. Men stayed up nights to measure azimuths (angles measured clockwise from north) and to sight lights lit by their colleagues many miles away. And they calculated, carefully; laboriously; assiduously.

And slowly, they constructed a network of imaginary triangles across the land, plotted the coordinates of many places for the first time, and drew inch-perfect maps. A long line of triangles along the central spine of the country from Kanyakumari to Dehradun, via Bengaluru and Bidar, provided the data to calculate the sphericity of the Earth at the tropics, something hitherto unknown. This in turn formed the basis of all maps made in the country until about the 1990s.

The GTS produced another dataset of global interest. This was the measurement of the heights of Himalayan peaks which established Mt Everest as the tallest mountain in the world. This exercise involved the gifted Indian mathematician Radhanath Sikdar. Today, we have calls from some quarters for Mt Everest to be named after him rather than after the brilliant but irascible George Everest, who helmed the GTS after William Lambton's death.

The GTS was built on mathematics and science. But it was the courage, ambition and determination of the surveyors that powered it through about a hundred years. Especially, in its early years, the surveyors faced and surmounted numerous setbacks, from bureaucratic hurdles to bandits to debilitating disease.

Digging into archives

After that first memorable encounter with the GTS observatory in Kannuru, Meera's engagement with the GTS was revived when she was involved in the restoration of the structure by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). She is the convenor of its Bengaluru chapter. She also wrote about the Kannuru observatory and the GTS in this newspaper. Shruthi read these articles, and found a potential kindred spirit. A children's author, Shruthi had been fascinated by the GTS for a few years then, and had wanted to bring this astounding but little-known story to young people. She got in touch with Meera.

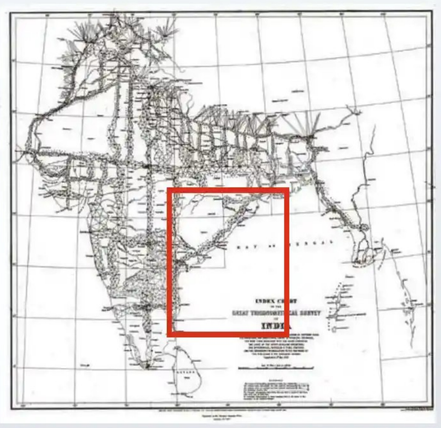
Co-authoring isn't for the faint-hearted. It requires mutual trust and respect, as well as the willingness to discuss and come to an agreement if there is a difference of opinion. We got into this groove quickly. Being in two different continents and time zones felt daunting at first, but it turned out to be an advantage. Like a relay, we worked on it on our time, and handed over the baton, as it were, to each other at the end of our day.

Telling the story in a way that is more accessible to readers meant that we first needed to understand some of the practicalities and nitty-gritties ourselves. How does one actually measure a baseline, how would you ensure that a line several kilometres long is absolutely straight, and what exactly did surveyors use to sight distant places at night? The questions were many as we grappled with context, seeking to understand in clear terms the history, science and mathematics of the concept of triangulation.

A large and important part of telling the GTS story was to understand how Indians figured in it. The phenomenal work that Lambton, Everest and others put in is deservedly praised, but we wondered about historical and social perspectives that aren't present in other accounts of the GTS. We wanted to know how ordinary people felt as they saw survey parties barging into their villages, farms and forests, or stomping over sacred spaces. And we wanted to know more about the unsung Indians who worked alongside the celebrated surveyors. Not surprisingly, there are not too many details about them. For example, we know next to nothing about Chitan Katan from Chennai, who worked as a flagman with the GTS from the early 1800s until his retirement. We know even less about Sheikh Ahmed, an armed guard with the GTS party, even though he too dedicated his entire career to the GTS. One report praises the men who carried the Great Theodolite as being 'an important element' of the survey party but we do not know their names.

Others before us have been fascinated by this project and we devoured books about the GTS by John Keay, Matthew Edney and Riaz Dean.

We weren't trying to present new research. That said, there was also little out there about Lambton's preparatory work — the trial baselines he set up in Bengaluru and later in Srirangapatna. We had to go back to



This 1870 map shows the network of principal triangulations across India.

files in the National Archives of India, the Karnataka State Archives, and the records of the Survey of India.

Some of the most riveting parts of the research were looking through such archival records. There are dull documents, and then there are those that speak to you directly from the past. Peer long enough at a page of slanting, cursive text, hand-written in ink and you feel like you know the person who wrote it, you recognise their style. Every familiar name of a person or place from a letter written 200 years ago led to a frisson of excitement. So we were thrilled as we read about the sightings from the first baseline to the Kempegowda Tower off Ballari Road, the 'Muntapam' as he called it, and the many temples including at Nanjangud and Srirangapatna that came in useful in the survey.

And then, there were online repositories that enabled us to read Lambton's original publications at the touch of a button. These were written to be read by his peers in the 1800s which meant they were long but obtuse. And they were obviously but frustratingly silent on details we wanted to know. For example, how long did it take them to climb Nandi Hills along with all that equipment?

We also encountered stories of surveyors outside of the GTS, such as the so-called pundits. They pretended to be Buddhist priests so that they could access otherwise-forbidden regions like Nepal and Tibet. These ersatz pilgrims surveyed hostile terrains using pocket-size sextants, faux prayer wheels and rosaries, and other such inventive means.

Relics in plain sight

Perhaps the most exciting facet of this scientific endeavour is that there are tangible remnants of the GTS almost everywhere in the country. In fact, Shruthi's interest in the GTS began with one such relic. In 2014, on a touristy visit to Mussoorie, Uttarakhand, Shruthi stumbled upon the house of George Everest in Hathipaon. At that time, it was a dilapidated shell, full of graffiti and cow droppings, but it was quite clear to her that this house, standing in such a stunning location, hadn't been just a thing of beauty.

Upon research, she discovered that Everest wasn't just a random fellow who lent his name to the mighty mountain, and heard about the GTS for the very first time.

The most ubiquitous relics of the GTS are the benchmarks, small markers that were erected where surveyors accurately measured elevation. In Bengaluru, there are benchmarks on the steps of the Kempegowda Tower on Ballari Road and on old churches such as Trinity Church. They can also be seen on railway platforms and bridges, as well as on the pedestals of old statues across the country. They also turn up in some unexpected places. In Karnataka, we have seen benchmarks chiselled into the steps of a dilapidated 11th century Kalyana Chalukya temple near Hanagal, and a sluice gate in Srirangapatna. In eastern India, you can see several towers that were used by surveyors, in various states of preservation. A few years ago, scholars from the University of Calcutta and Queen's University in Belfast undertook a survey to document these towers.

In the rest of the country, these vestiges of the GTS are rapidly being lost to urbanisation, vandalism and ignorance. The surveyors recorded GTS benchmarks on structures they thought would last a long while, but many that were recorded on platforms, churches and milestones have disappeared. The GTS observatory in Kannuru was demolished by an unidentified person last year and the revenue department filed a case following public outcry. A moment's silence here, dear reader, for this event occurred even as we were writing our book. It shattered our hearts.

A few years ago, heritage activist Udaya Kumar P L went around looking for and documenting the remains of the baselines and auxiliary stations that surveyors established in Bengaluru. Imagine if citizens elsewhere in the country could similarly undertake to document the benchmarks, towers and baselines in their backyard. These could then be entered into a single platform to create a country-wide, citizen-built database of these bits of scientific history.

But why, you may wonder. Why need anyone bother about these relics when we have moved far beyond GTS to the age of GPS. For one thing, these old structures and benchmarks serve as entry points for people to think about how science and surveying served the Empire. They remind us how simple ideas like trigonometry can form the basis for grand ideas like geodesy. And they hold stories of the courage and vision of surveyors, mathematicians, flagmen and others, all of whom were part of a project that was larger than any of them.

Like this story?
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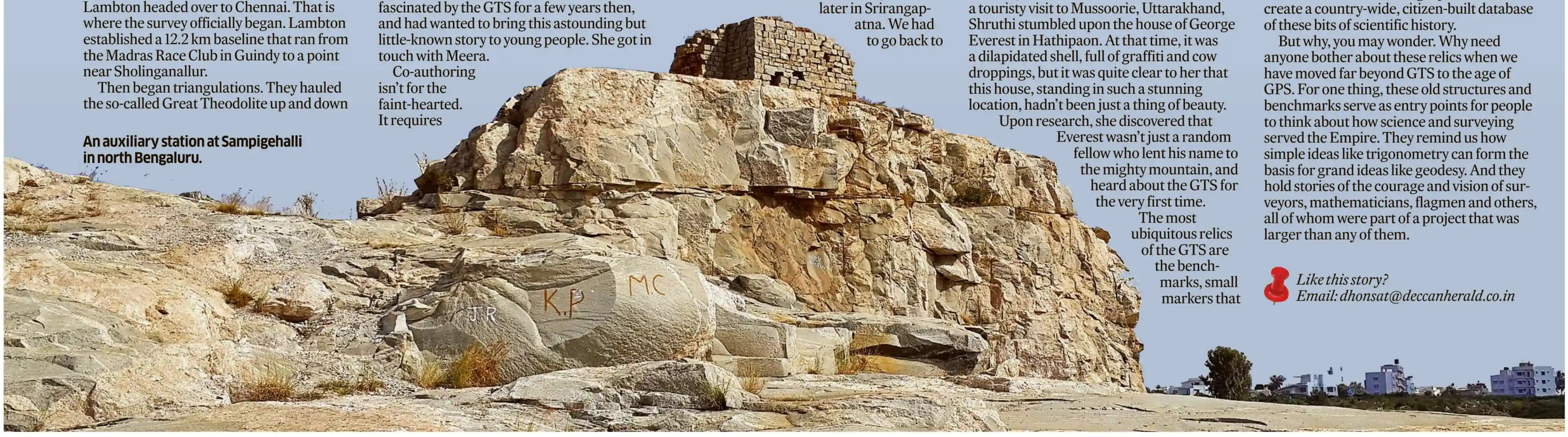
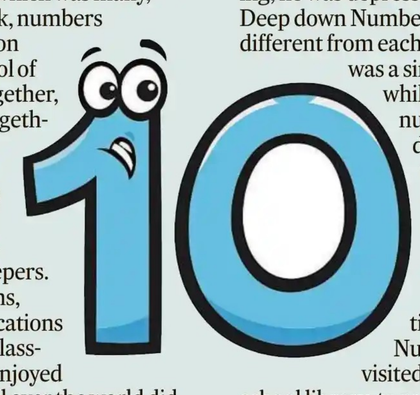


An auxiliary station at Sampigehalli in north Bengaluru.

OPEN SESAME

Number 10 is Sad

A tale of friendship, numbers, and Sudoku, the game that changed it all, written by Rachna Chhabria



Number 10 was feeling sad, because his best friend, number 9, didn't play with him or even hang out with him anymore. Ever since they were born, which was many, many, many years back, numbers 1 to 10 shared a common dormitory in the School of Numbers, sleeping together, eating and studying together and of course playing together. Number 10 and number 9 were close, they shared all their secrets and were each other's secret keepers. They did their additions, subtractions, multiplications and divisions in their classroom together. They enjoyed listening as children all over the world did the multiplication tables, feeling a sense of pride surge through their body.

But all this changed in 1979, when a man named Howard Garns invented a game. It involved the placing of numbers into empty spots inside a 9x9 grid.

Once that number game was invented, numbers 1 to 9 had no time for "normal" activities, especially ones that included friendship and playing with friends. Numbers 1 to 9 became celebrities. The other numbers were in awe of them, due to their fame and popularity.

Though Number 10 was happy for the success his friend was experiencing, he was depressed at being left out. Deep down Number 10 knew they were different from each other, that his bestie was a single digit number, while he was a double digit number, and that one day they would have to endure some kind of separation. But he hadn't expected that the separation would hurt so much.

With so much free time on his hands, Number 10 visited the school library, to read more about the man who had created the game.

"This man must really hate me to separate me from my best friend," Number 10 grumbled, as he picked up a book.

The more Number 10 read, the more fascinated he became. Howard Garns born on March 2, 1905, was an American architect who became famous as the creator of the Number Place, a number puzzle. It became a global phenomenon, and was later known as Sudoku. Garns worked at an architecture firm in Indianapolis, US, and in his free time he utilised one of the company's two drawing boards to create a crossword puzzle with numbers. The puzzle had nine small squares. Garns was very secretive about his puzzle and covered it up every time a colleague approached him.

The Number Place was first published in a magazine called Dell Pencil Puzzles and Word Games in May 1979. Garns felt sad to read that his byline was missing from the actual puzzle page, but it appeared in the list of contributors whenever the Number Place puzzle was featured.

Some people who enjoyed doing the puzzle and perhaps searched for the creator's name, added two and two together and came to the conclusion that Garns was the creator of the puzzle.

Number 10 felt happy to read that Garns was alive to see his creation being renamed Sudoku, when it gained immense popularity in 1984 in Japan. Sudoku is a shorter term for the longer Japanese sentence 'Suji wa dokushin ni kagiru', which translates to 'the digits are limited to one occurrence'.

Garns passed away on October 6, 1989. Sadly, he was unable to see its global popularity in 2004, when his puzzle was printed by The Times, London, and also The Conway Daily Sun (New Hampshire), with people all over the world playing the number puzzle.

The game required the player to place numbers where they weren't already present. If a number was already present in a row, column or a small square, it couldn't be placed there again.

"It's a challenging game," Number 10 said as he read the rules again. If numbers 1, 9, 8, 3, 6 and 4 were already present in the top row, it meant that particular row needed only 2, 5 and 7. The player now had to study the nearby rows which are within the same squares and figure out if they can rule out any of the three missing numbers.

Number 10 thought that doing Sudoku must be relaxing and helped keep peoples' brains healthy, as it was considered a brain game. Though it was addictive, it was a healthy addiction.

Number 10 suddenly realised that the date was September 9, International Sudoku Day. He grinned as the symbolism of the date became clear (9/9), as the goal of this game was to fill a 9x9 grid so that every single column, row and 3x3 grid had all the digits from 1 to 9. He was so impressed with this mentally stimulating game that he forgot that his best friend had left him due to the game. If his loneliness helped keep so many people engaged, then he was all for it.

2 DIY projects using plastic bottles

.... and other stationery items

Bottle car

Materials needed
- Coloured plastic bottle: 1
- Plastic bottle caps: 4
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun
- 2 sticks
- Cardboard
- Paint (optional)

Method
1) Choose a coloured plastic bottle of your choice. Cut the top portion off to form a car body as seen in the image. This will be the base for your car.
2) To make rotating wheels, create holes in the middle of the four bottle caps. Pass a stick through the holes of two bottle caps. Then repeat with the other two. Under parental guidance, use a hot glue gun to seal the ends of the sticks, in a way that the caps can still move. Make sure the length of the two sticks is the same and the wheels align.
3) Optional: You can paint the body of the car or add stickers for decoration.
4) Cut the top part of the bottle in such a way that it can be folded to create the windshield of the car.
5) For the final touch, add a seat made of cardboard.

Bottle flowers

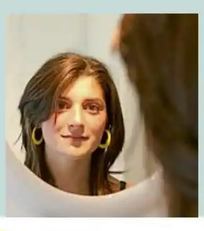
Materials needed
- Empty plastic bottles: 5 to 6
- Scissors
- Green craft paper or felt
- Wooden sticks
- Glue
- Paints (red, blue, yellow and green)
- A small pot or a thermocol base

Method
1) Carefully cut around the bottom part of the bottle to create flower-shaped petals. Each flower will ideally have 5 petals. You can use the upper part of the bottle to create more petals, if needed.
2) Arrange all the petals in a flower shape. Under parental guidance, use a hot glue gun and stick them together at the centre.
3) To make the stem, attach a wooden stick to the back of the flower using glue. Paint it green.
4) Cut out leaf shapes from the green craft paper or felt and glue them to the middle part of the stem.
5) If you want a vibrant look, you can paint the petals different colours. Let them dry before assembling them.
6) Place the flowers in a small pot or arrange them on a thermocol base in a garden-like display.

LETTER WRITING

Write an open letter to your future self

If you got the chance to meet yourself from the future, what would you like to know about the future, and what would you tell him/her? Write an open letter and share it with us. You stand a chance of being featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph. Entries close on September 11.



Word of the Week

malady

(noun)
— a disease or ailment or problem

Usage:
— Sherly is suffering from a range of maladies.
— Ignorance is one of the biggest maladies of our society.

Is a friendly teacher better than a strict one?

Open Sesame readers talk it out

YES

I believe a friendly teacher is better. Teachers play an important role in every student's life. They help students to grow and to become better citizens. A friendly teacher is someone who creates a warm and relaxed environment. They make learning feel more like a conversation than a lesson and encourage students to ask questions and share their ideas without fear. Such teachers often use humour and personal stories to make learning joyful and exciting. Friendly teachers have a smiling face and often listen to students.

On the other hand, a strict teacher emphasises discipline and clear expectations. They often focus on rules to ensure everyone stays on task. Students often learn the value of hard work and responsibility and they know exactly what they need to do succeed.

Friends, I feel both a friendly and strict teacher can be excellent educators. The best teachers know exactly when to be friendly or strict to mix encouragement with clear guidance to help students achieve their full potential.

However, I strongly believe that a friendly teacher builds trust, and trust builds learning, which in turn builds the student's future. Hence, a friendly teacher is definitely better than a strict one.

– **SUDHANVA S HOLLA, 13,**
DHARWAD, KARNATAKA

NO

A friendly teacher is not better than a strict teacher. Under the guidance of a strict teacher, students are more likely to be well-behaved, more disciplined, and also focused, as they are afraid of being punished. Though a friendly teacher can foster a positive and inclusive learning environment, they may be taken advantage of by students in the present generation.

A student will not dare to do anything naughty or mischievous when a strict teacher is around, but young tender minds are volatile when a friendly teacher is around. A strict teacher usually has a motivational, professional approach thereby enhancing well-organised classrooms, creating high standards, and intervening for students' personal and academic betterment. However, being a friendly teacher is often taken for granted by most of the students, which may hinder their critical thinking and cause the teacher to lose authority.

While a friendly teacher creates a comfortable environment and strives to be on good terms with students, a strict teacher, despite their stern guidelines and lack of emotional connection, often earns respect and love. Although students fear a strict teacher, over time they feel gratitude towards them because they help students become responsible by creating a congenial atmosphere that stimulates them to study hard.

In a nutshell, neither a solely strict teacher nor a solely friendly teacher is universally better. Instead, the most effective approach for any teacher is to balance strictness and support for overall futuristic growth.

Nothing will work unless you do.

– **T JAITEERTH MANAS, 14**
RAICHUR, KARNATAKA

POETS IN THE MAKING

Want to see your poetry in print?

Send in poems about the topic 'My superpower' to *Open Sesame*. You may be featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work — not more than 12 lines to o*pensesame@deccanherald.co.in.* Entries close on September 18. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph.

This Week:

Solely September

Open Sesame Quiz

Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.

Q1 On September 6, 1991, the second-largest city in Russia reclaimed its original name. Briefly called Petrograd, what was it known as between 1924 and the year it became St Petersburg again?

Q2 Which prominent personality, who had starred in Hollywood films, died on September 14, 1982, a day after her car swerved off the road and plunged down a mountainside?

Q3 Hyderabad Liberation Day, on September 17, marks the integration of the princely state of Hyderabad into the Indian Union. Which 5-day military campaign, in 1948, helped achieve that?

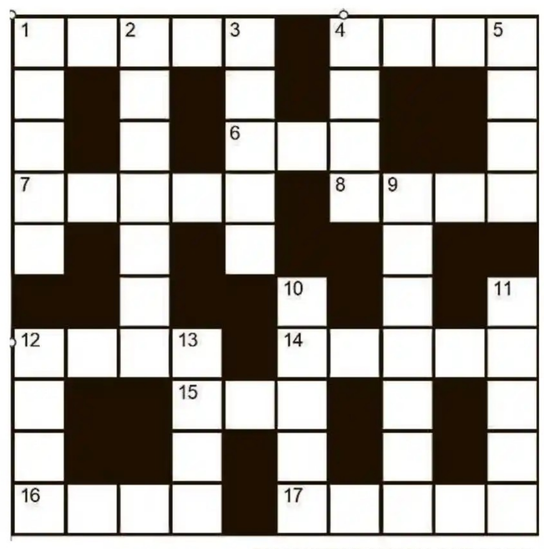
Scan the QR code
Or visit bit.ly/DHopensesame to participate in the quiz.

Q4 **Rhyme Time:** Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
Clue A: Born September 21, 1866, was H G Wells who wrote 'The Invisible –'.
Clue B: To officially forbid.

Q5 **Clue Cluster:** Which self-governing country granted women the right to vote on September 19, 1893? Use these clues:
a) Maori
b) Kiwi
c) Sheep
d) Dunedin

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: Riya (12), Bidar; Nalin Kumar (10), Holenarasipura; Shrujan Hariharan (13), Bengaluru.

CROSSWORD



BY CHITTARANJAN ANDRADE

Across
1 __ Fang, by Jack London (5)
4 __ Eyre, by Charlotte Bronte (4)
6 Conjunction (3)
7 Roofing material (5)
8 Large monster (4)
12 Desire (4)
14 Indian language (5)
15 Belonging to us (3)
16 __ Dick, by Herman Melville (4)
17 __ Beauty, by Anna Sewell (5)

Down
1 Ballroom dance (5)
2 Slanted letters (7)
3 Rub out (5)
4 A martial art (4)
5 Border (4)
9 Mother's mother (7)
10 Tree (5)
11 Booth (5)
12 Mildly hot (4)
13 Sacred (4)

ANSWERS
Across: 1 White, 4 Jane, 6 And, 7 Tiles, 8 Ogre, 12 Wish, 14 Hindi, 15 Our, 16 Moby, 17 Black.
Down: 1 Waltz, 2 Italics, 3 Erase, 4 Judo, 5 Edge, 9 Grandma, 10 Shrub, 11 Kiosk, 12 Warm, 13 Holy.

INSPIRATION VS APPROPRIATION

Some achievers are discovering that their stories are being used in films with no acknowledgment or remuneration, writes Roshan Thyagarajan

Whose story is it anyway?

Most of our lives are now but a series of surface-level algorithms. Patterns. Codes. Dots. Dashes. But even those in the business of building and administering intelligence of the artificial variety are aware that the human condition cannot be reduced to a game of permutations and combinations.

FEEDBACK
Send your ideas and comments to dhonsat @deccanherald.co.in

Anthropologists and linguists say that a key component in the continued story of our species is that each of us has our own unique story. Some express it and some don't, but there is no denying the sanctity of the story. Your story. Our story. But, 'sanctity' is almost always a matter of convenience and greed when it comes to Indian cinema.

Ask those who 'borrowed' S C Madhu Chandan's 'Organic Mandya' story and turned it into a blockbuster Telugu movie called 'Maharishi'. "Someone from Hyderabad came to us in 2016 and told us he was writing a script for a Telugu movie and he was using the story of my life," Chandan tells *DH*. "We didn't think too much about it, but when the movie came out, a friend told me that this story really reminded him of my story. I watched and realised it was."

The story was about how an engineer returned from the United States, saw the plight of farmers in his native Mandya, and set out to do something about it. He eventually builds a business to connects farmers to consumers, supporting sustainable organic farming by promoting chemical-free agriculture practices. He didn't mind that they took the story, but was disappointed that they didn't give him any credit. "They should have had the courtesy to tell us at least. We wrote to them on their social media pages, but they ignored us. Also, knowing that these things happen in India all the time, we didn't bother taking the legal route," he says. He would have been satisfied even with a simple line saying the story was 'inspired by' his real-life story.

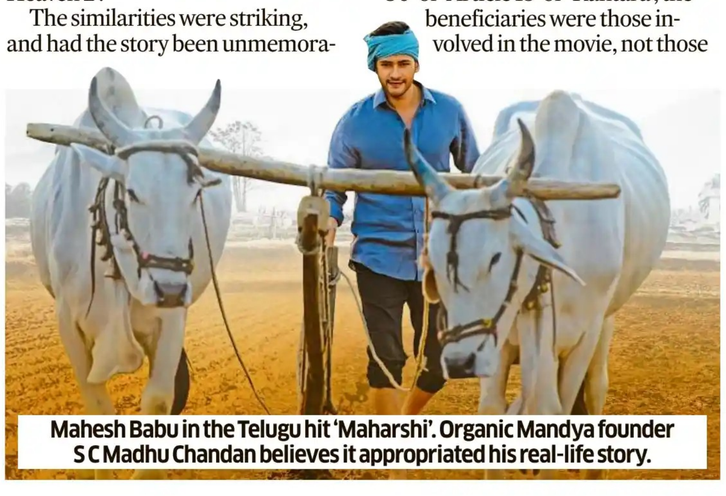
A similar story played out a couple of years ago when Yashica Dutt's book 'Coming Out As Dalit: A Memoir' was turned into an episode of a web series called 'Made In Heaven 2'.

The similarities were striking, and had the story been unmemorable, they might have got away with claiming it was just another story. But Yashica's lived experience and its telling was too unique to be just another story.

"I was curious when Alankrita Shrivastava (the screenwriter of the show) was interested in meeting me in 2021. When she asked for the meeting, I assumed it was in the context of a project, but when I asked her, she said: 'I was just visiting and wanted to meet you'."

Since the revelation, though, Yashica has sought legal resources to fight the battle, and while there isn't a conclusion in sight, all she has received for calling the makers out is inappropriate, caste-related backlash on social media. Oh, and for being a person who claimed validation for a story which 'wasn't hers to begin with'. This after she had put out the book a couple of years before this episode even aired!

For that matter, consider 'Super 30' or 'Article 15' or 'Kantara', the beneficiaries were those involved in the movie, not those who actually lived those stories.



Mahesh Babu in the Telugu hit 'Maharshi'. Organic Mandya founder S C Madhu Chandan believes it appropriated his real-life story.

But, the bigger issue at hand isn't so much that these stories are 'stolen', 'borrowed', 'inspired by', 'adopted from' (we can wait for our society to be marginally more evolved to delve into that conversation), it is the fact that none of these 'creators' acknowledged that they were active recipients — sometimes in confidence — of stories others had lived through.

Would movie makers lose out on a lot by offering a line or two to those who they have taken from?

"Not at all," says well-known film critic M K Raghavendra. "See, genres work on formulas, but stealing unique plot lines is not okay. There is so little uniqueness in Indian cinema at the moment. All they do is exploit the powerless because they know that taking them to court would not result in much. Actually, it won't result in anything. If you have clout in India, you can get away with anything, and a lot of these people in the movie industry have the clout to get away with it."

As for the question about why filmmakers don't acknowledge the sources of their stories, he says, "Maybe they don't want to share their slice of fame and money that comes from these movies?" And as valid as the hypothesis is, the answer is more likely rooted in Raghavendra's former sentiment: 'exploiting the poor for their lack of resources'.

It is beginning to seem like AI has more of a conscience than some of those who live among us. Surely, being reduced to an algorithm is better than having the very thing that makes you unique taken away from you by one of your own.

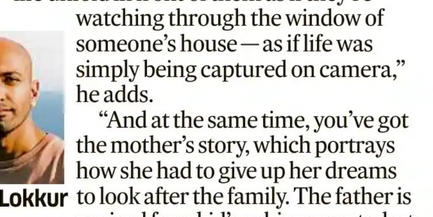
Kannada film set in '90s Bangalore goes to Busan

The film 'Don't Tell Mother' delves into the subject of corporal punishment. Director Anoop Lokkur talks to Pranati A S about its making

Anoop Lokkur's debut Kannada feature, 'Don't Tell Mother' ('Ammange Helbeda') will premiere at the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) in the 'A Window on Asian Cinema' category. It is a non-competitive category, which features "new and/or representative films by Asian filmmakers". The festival begins on September 17.

'Don't Tell Mother' unfolds in the bylanes of south Bengaluru of the '90s — when children played on the streets, stole raw mangoes from their neighbours' trees, and watched Cartoon Network to entertain themselves.

It is a coming-of-age drama and a sweet nostalgic account of incidents inspired from the director's childhood, poignantly portraying how seemingly harmless, innocent acts can lead to a lifetime of guilt and regret. The semi-autobiographical film follows a young boy who goes through corporal punishment at school. It also makes a commentary about the women of the '90s who desired to be more than just mothers and wives.



Siddharth plays Akash, a child facing corporal punishment at school.

Anoop Lokkur

The film centres on corporal punishment in school, which the director faced growing up in Bengaluru. "It was really bad and I never told my parents because I was worried they'll think I'm to blame," Anoop tells *Showtime*.

The idea of making the film came to Anoop while having a conversation with his wife about raising children. "My wife grew up in the US. I saw that we both had opposing views. I realised corporal punishment is cyclical — my grandparents hit my parents, my great grandparents hit my grandparents. I wanted to explore that angle — how systemic corporal punishment was normalised, at least in the 90s, the impact it had on kids and what they learn from the hurdles."

Anoop, who lives in the US now, briefly moved to Bengaluru for two-and-a-half years to shoot the film. As it is an independent film, Anoop found it very difficult to recreate the '90s on screen because of budget constraints. "Writing it was very nostalgic and emotional. There were certain parts that I hadn't thought about in a long time. It was like travelling back in time," he shares.

What does he want to say through the film? "I'm not the type of filmmaker who aims to make a statement through my films," he remarks. From the get-go, he wanted it to be an observational film. "I wanted the audiences to watch someone's life unfold in front of them as if they're watching through the window of someone's house — as if life was simply being captured on camera," he adds.

"And at the same time, you've got the mother's story, which portrays how she had to give up her dreams to look after the family. The father is praised for a kid's achievements, but the mother is blamed for the kid's mistakes."

Anoop's interest in photography developed during his family vacations. He enjoyed capturing those special moments on camera. He then signed up for a photography course in Bengaluru. "I didn't take it very seriously; there was also a lot of pressure from my parents to pick a subject to study," he says. When he was pursuing his masters degree in Australia, his flatmate noticed his keen interest in photography and cinema and suggested he get into filmmaking. "That's when I thought 'oh, maybe that's what I should do in life'," he recalls. In 2015, Anoop did a filmmaking course at Victorian College of the Arts, Melbourne. He made a few short films before this feature.

Describing the Busan selection, Anoop says, "Many filmmakers go through one rejection after another and one just wants to hide. It makes you doubt your capabilities. When we got the email from Busan, it was a surprise. It gave us validation and the team was excited."

MOVIE R | E | V | I | E | W | S

Taut, intense thriller from Tharun Sudhir's stable

PRANATI A S

★★★★☆

Elumale

Kannada (Theatres)

Director: Punit Rangaswamy

Cast: Raanna, Priyanka Achar, Kishore, Nagabharana, Jagapati Babu, Rakesh Maiya

'Kaatera' fame Tharun Sudhir's second production 'Elumale' begins gently in the hills of Ooty. Taxi driver Harisha (played by Raanna) is making frantic calls to Chinni aka Revathy, the love of his life (Priyanka Achar). She is from a rich Tamil family from Salem while Harisha is an orphan from Chamarajanagara; the two plan to elope that night.

While they are at it, they get entangled in a high profile police operation to nab a notorious forest brigand. Simultaneously, a group of policemen is planning something vicious. How and when will the lovers meet? That question forms the crux of the 133-minute intense thriller.

Set in 2004, 'Elumale' evokes nostalgia with the help of vintage Nokia phones, movie posters and hit songs from the time playing on the radio. The writing is razor-sharp. The well-researched and intelligently constructed narrative offers dramatic tension keeping the audience hooked throughout. Both Raanna and debutante Priyanka Achar deliver compelling performances. A brilliant Kishore plays a brutal police officer. But among all performers, Nagabharana as a head constable stands out.

Raanna plays an orphaned taxi driver and Kishore, a brutal police officer.

What sets the film apart is director Punith Rangaswamy's ability to marry visual storytelling with emotional depth. Advaita Gurumurthy's shots of the Male Mahadeshwara Hills work with D Imman's music to create a sombre atmosphere. The more gripping it gets, the more emotional you become. If an edge-of-the-seat thriller accompanied by an intense love story is your thing, then Elumale is what you should be watching.
It may not be a one-of-a-kind experience, but the cinematic experience is definitely worth your time.

A moving rebirth drama

JAGADISH ANGADI

Dog-centric movies in Kannada, from 'Nishabda' (1998), to '777 Charliee' (2022) and 'Puppy' (2025) depicted heartwarming stories of unconditional love. 'Naanu Matthu Gunda 2' is the sequel to 'Naanu Matthu Gunda' (2020) that portrayed the relationship between Shankar and his dog Gunda. The sequel explores the journey of Shankar's son, also named Shankar (Rakesh Adiga), and his connection with Gunda.

When Shankar's widowed wife dies in labour, his friend, Bhoori (Govinde Gowda), steps in to raise the orphaned child, also naming him Shankar. The boy's life becomes deeply intertwined with Gunda. Following Gunda's death, the young Shankar is devastated but intuitively senses the dog's rebirth, sparking an extraordinary quest, weaving together an eternal tale of two souls destined to be together.

Rakesh Adiga with Simba.

★★★☆☆

Naanu Matthu Gunda 2

Kannada (Theatres)

Director: Raghu Haasan

Cast: Rakesh Adiga, Rachana Inder, Simba (dog), Simba junior, Govinde Gowda, Avinash

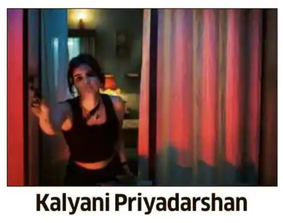
Raghu Haasan's grip on direction and screenplay in the first half is visible. However, with unnecessary deviations, the narrative falters significantly after the interval. The scenes featuring Sadhu Kokila and his assistants, intended for comedic relief, feel forced and are out of place, as are some police-related scenes.

R P Patnaik and Ruthvik Muralidhar deserve credit for their music as it effectively sets the mood. Cinematography is average and lyrics fail to stand out.

Rakesh excels as Shankar bringing depth and emotion to the role. Rachana Inder's performance is underwhelming with noticeable flaws in dialogue delivery. Simba (dog) and Simba junior leave a lasting impression with their adorable presence and talent. The sequel, one-time-watch mostly succeeds as a family entertainer.

Folklore with fangs

AMOGH RAVINDRA



Kalyani Priyadarshan

★★½☆☆

Lokah Chapter 1: Chandra

Theatres (Malayalam)

Director: Dominic Arun

Cast: Kalyani Priyadarshan, Naslen, Sandy, Arun Kurian

Indian superheroes have mostly been stuck in a loop of flying punches and familiar plots. 'Lokah Chapter 1: Chandra' is no exception. What gives it an edge is where it starts, with grandmother's tales and stories steeped in folklore. Directed by Dominic Arun and produced by Dulquer Salmaan, this Malayalam film trades the usual capes and cosmic battles for something stranger, moodier, and a little more rooted.

Chandra, a mysterious new arrival in Bengaluru, becomes part of a group of young Malayali boys. Around them, the city simmers with unease, caught between a corrupt police force, a shady organ trade, and a growing sense that something darker is lurking. When things spiral, a hero emerges. Or rather, a vampire. Chandra is not here to settle in quietly, she is here to bite back. Once her identity surfaces, the story begins ticking off superhero clichés like a to-do list. The plot has more holes than an appam, but the cameos work, the tone stays steady, and the film holds together.

Kalyani Priyadarshan adds mystery and vulnerability to Chandra, while Naslen and the boys bring humour and chaos to keep things moving. Visually, it delivers for its scale, with Jakes Bejoy's score adding pulse and Dominic Arun creating a moody world that stays focused.

The film isn't perfect, but it has ambition, atmosphere, and a vampire who feels oddly grounded.

It may not soar, but it doesn't sink either. Controversy or not, it is flying high at the box office. Any publicity, as they say, is good publicity.

A double-edged failure

MUKUND SETLUR

Vivek Agnihotri's 'The Bengal Files' tells the story of an IPS officer investigating the murder of a Dalit journalist against the backdrop of the 1946 Calcutta riots or the great Calcutta killings, which broke out between Hindus and Muslims.

During the investigation he meets an old lady who was a survivor of the riots. The role is played by Pallavi Joshi. The story shuttles between the present and the past with a single-minded focus — the majority Hindus are in trouble and are facing annihilation from Muslims. The film aims to show that nothing much has changed in the last 78 years.

The filmmaker has taken a lot of cinematic liberty, but to subtly indicate that Mahatma Gandhi only asked the Hindus to surrender their weapons in Noakhali is nothing but mischievous.

Agnihotri is no innovator of propaganda cinema. Cinema has always been used as a political propaganda tool — by priests, capitalists and communists. However, the craft required to make an impactful propaganda film is not in the skill set of the director. The screenplay is a combination of viral WhatsApp forwards of how India will become a Muslim-dominated country by 2050! Places where visual storytelling devices could make a difference and move the audience, are ruined by long monologues that offer no new perspective.

Pallavi Joshi in 'The Bengal Files'.

★☆☆☆☆

The Bengal Files

Hindi (Theatres)

Director: Vivek Agnihotri

Cast: Anupam Kher, Mithun Chakraborthy, Pallavi Joshi, Saswata Chatterjee

The cast of 'The Tashkent Files' and 'The Kashmir Files' — Mithun Chakraborty, Anupam Kher and Pallavi Joshi — feature in 'The Bengal Files' as well.

'The Bengal Files' is a fairly thick file! The length of the movie, at three hours and 25 minutes, I suspect is not an artistic choice, but a dilemma emerging from incoherent writing and poor editing. The film is a double-edged disaster – neither will it find new converts to the cause of the director nor is it a worthy cinematic documentation of a cruel chapter from Indian history.

Only for Sivakarthikeyan fans

ARUN ANTONY

★★½☆☆

Madharaasi

Tamil (Theatres)

Direction: A R Murugadoss

Cast: Sivakarthikeyan, Rukmini Vasanth, Vidyut Jamwal

'Madharaasi' is poles apart from what A R Murugadoss movies once used to be — new ideas, stylistic choices that one doesn't expect from Indian movies and stories representing common people. That doesn't necessarily make 'Madharaasi' a bad film; but simply one without the ARM spirit, that made movies like 'Ghajini', 'Thalaiva' and 'Katthi' great cinematic experiences.

Sivakarthikeyan drives the movie forward. Vidyut Jamaal's understated yet action packed scenes significantly elevate the movie. Rukmini Vasanth's Malathi is crucial to the plot, but is reduced to being the hero's love interest and ends up being a damsel in distress, lacking real survival instincts.

The director did a decent job but there is nothing that's worth rewarding him for. Sivakarthikeyan was funny and relatable but failed to show genuine emotions in certain scenes. The rest of the cast including the gifted Biju Menon, are simply unrelatable and forgettable images of characters from a thousand other similar action films.

Commercial action films usually demand you to suspend your belief in physics and gravity, but this movie demands you to suspend your belief in governmental procedures and how India's most prestigious intelligence agencies work. There's barely any logic to the portrayal of confidential NIA operations in the country. If not satire, the film makes you question the film's screenplay from a logical stand point. While the action choreography is the best thing about the film, everything else is simply not up to the mark.

'Madharaasi' is only for fans of Sivakarthikeyan and his comedic timing and charm.

SPORT

Om Verma

Top seeds Snigha, Om live up to their billing

BENGALURU, DHNS: Top seed Snigha Kanta booked her place in the girls' singles final of the KSLTA ITF World Tennis Tour Juniors with a hard-fought win over fourth seed Aleena Farid 6-3, 7-6 (4) at the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium here on Friday.

Snigda conceded the first two games in the first set and was broken twice before she broke back to clinch the set. She was also pushed to the limit in the second but came clutch to take the match.

The 16-year-old will now take on eighth seed Deepshika Vinayagamurthy, who advanced with a 1-6, 6-3, 6-1 victory over Aahan Aahan.

In the boys' singles, Rohit Gobinath continued his strong run, ousting fifth seed Ojash Mehlawat 6-4, 6-2 to claim his third win over a seeded opponent this week. The other semifinal saw Om Verma secure a comprehensive victory against sixth seed Adhiraj Thakur, 6-1, 6-0 to set up a title clash with Gobinath.

Results: Prefix denotees seeding:
Semifinals: Boys' singles: Rohith Hari Balaji Gobina Gobinath bt 5-Ojas Mehlawat 6-4, 6-2; Om Verma bt 6-Adhiraj Tkakur 6-1, 6-0

Final: Doubles: Shaurya Bharadwaj/Prakaash Sarran bt 2-Yashwin Dahiya/Aditya Mor 6-3, 6-1

Girls: Semifinal singles: 1-Snigha Kanta bt 4-Aleena Farid 6-3, 7-6 (4); 8-Deepshika Vinayagamurthy bt 5-Aahan Aahan 1-6, 6-3, 6-1.

Doubles: 1-Aleena Farid/Angel Patel bt Aahan Aahan/Divya Ungrish 6-4, 6-1.

CRICKET DULEEP TROPHY

Jagadeesan grows in strength, stature

Consistency boosts TN batter's rise in the national pecking order

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

N Jagadeesan had numbers to stake a legitimate claim in the national team as a wicketkeeper-batter, but Rishabh Pant and and his second-in-command, Dhruv Jurel, had firmly entrenched their places in the squad with Ishan Kishan being the next in the pecking order. A national call-up, he might have thought, was a long shot.

As the recent India-England Test series was was winding down, the Tamil Nadu player got a call late in July to pack his bags for the final Test after Pant fractured a right toe during the penultimate game in Manchester. That's how quickly, and in a quirky way, fortunes can change.

Although the 29-year-old has been a consistent performer on the domestic circuit with 3373 runs in 52 first-class games at a healthy average of 47.50 (10 centuries and 14 half-centuries), he was fourth in the pecking order after KS Bharat failed to justify his place after less-than-modest returns in the seven Tests he appeared.

However, with Ishan injured, Jagadeesan was summoned as a back up to Jurel. Though there was no chance of him a getting his debut, the call-up was an affirmation that his performance were being noticed and a confidence booster. And it was visible in the way Jagadeesan batted, stroking a superb 197 for South Zone in the Duleep Trophy semifinal against North Zone here on Friday. It was also evident in the way he spoke to the media following the second day's play, completely assured of what's he talking.

"I think I was batting for a very long time to get my 197. I faced almost 350 balls (352 actually). But in the end, the way I got out, it was a bit disappointing. But you know, it's just part and parcel of the game, so it's fine," Jagadeesan said with a smile on his face despite being left stranded by his partner Ricky Bhui.

When asked if the India call-up has altered his approach to the game as compared to the previous season, Jagadeesan said the goal is to continue enjoying the sport like he's done always and not put extra pressure on himself. "You know, if I'm going to think about that, that's just added pressure to me because I'm here to just enjoy the sport and make sure that I enjoy each and every match that I get to play. I think I need to be grateful for the opportunity that I'm getting over here because there are a billion more people who want to play Duleep Trophy, play Ranji Trophy and, you know, be part of the Indian team.

"I think more than anything, for me, personally, it's about enjoying the sport and also making sure that I stay in the present and not think about the future. I was very lucky to be there (in England). And I think I just have to take some confidence out of it and make sure that I can translate that while I go on to play."

Jagadeesan said he was thrilled to be part of the Indian team but there was a conscious effort to be himself. "It was a really good experience to be there and to experience what was going on in the fifth Test, turning out to be a thriller as well. I think it's very important for me to not get overwhelmed as well, trying to copy someone because they've already been there. I've fought my way to go there. So I think it's very important for me to still believe in what I've done personally."

Measured words from a confident cricketer hoping to make the most of the sudden reckoning.

South Zone's N Jagadeesan missed out on a double century by just three runs against North Zone in the Duleep Trophy semifinal on Friday. PTI

Jagadeesan misses double ton but SZ dominate

SIDNEY KIRAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

N Jagadeesan missed out on a deserved double century due to a horrible mix-up with Ricky Bhui, but South Zone continued to call the shots against North Zone on the second day of their Duleep Trophy semifinal here on Friday.

Leaving from where he left off on Thursday, Tamil Nadu's Jagadeesan, batting on 148 overnight, once again dominated the North Zone bowlers on a benign surface at the BCCI Centre of Excellence on the outskirts of the city. Despite the dismissal of skipper Mohammed Azharuddeen off the second ball of the day, Jagadeesan and Bhui batted with authority, and the duo looked on course to bury North under an avalanche of runs.

NZ's Mayank Dagar dislodges the bails to run out N Jagadeesan. PTI

However, against the run of play in the penultimate over before lunch, disaster struck Jagadeesan. Bhui cut the ball to point and called for a quick single. Jagadeesan was off the blocks in a flash, but to his shock, Bhui stopped and turned back after the initial few strides. By the time Jagadeesan looked up, he was within handshaking distance of Bhui, who had retreated back to his crease to save himself. North Zone bowler Mayank Dagar whipped the bails off at the non-striker's end, leaving a livid Jagadeesan berating Bhui.

Bhui didn't allow North a way back into the game, as his 54 off 131 balls and an equally gritty 58 off 116 balls from No. 8 Tanay Thyagarajan saw South Zone post a strong 536 all out in 169.2 overs when stumps were called.

Central hit back

In the other semifinal, Saransh Jain (3/121) and Harsh Dubey (3/118) bagged three wickets apiece, and Danish Malewar (76) and Shubham Sharma (60 not out) then scored composed half-centuries as Central Zone look primed to take the all-important first innings lead against West Zone.

Central Zone first bowled well to shoot out West Zone for 438 in 108 overs.

Brief scores: South Zone (O/n: 297/3): 536 all out in 169.2 overs (Tanmay Agarwal 43, Narayan Jagadeesan 197, Devdutt Padikkal 57, Ricky Bhui 54, Salman Nizar 29, Tanay Thygarajan 58, Gurjapneet Singh 29; Anshul Kamboj 2-67, Nishant Sindhu 5-125) vs North Zone.
West Zone (O/n: 363/6): 438 all out in 108 overs (Aarya Desai 39, Ruturaj Gaikwad 184, Shreyas Iyer 25, Tanush Kotian 76, Shardul Thakur 64; Khaleel Ahmed 2-82, Saransh Jain 3-121, Harsh Dubey 3-118) vs Central Zone: 229/2 in 67 overs (Aayush Pandey 40, Danish Malewar 76, Shubham Sharma 60 n.o., Rajat Patidar 47 n.o.).

Australia name Women's World Cup squad

MELBOURNE, PTI: Left-arm spinner Sophie Molineux returned after a long injury layoff as Australia Friday announced a 15-member squad for the upcoming ICC Women's World Cup in which Alyssa Healy will be leading the seven-time champions' title defence.

Australia won the last edition of the tournament and will look to extend their dominance in the upcoming event which will be held across India and Sri Lanka from September 30 to November 2.

Victorian spinner Molineux, who has been recovering from a knee injury since January, will, however, miss the preceding three-match ODI series against India from September 14 to 20, which will be the final tune-up for both teams.

Darcie Brown (quad) and Georgia Wareham (groin) also recovered from their recent injuries to bolster the squad which does not hold any surprises.

With the tournament being played in the Indian sub-continent, the spin duo of Molineux and leg-spinner Wareham will be vital to Australia's prospects as they look to defend the title won in New Zealand in 2022.

Skipper Healy, too, made a return to the Australia A side last month after a 2024-25 summer disrupted by injuries.

"Sophie Molineux is progressing well in her return from a knee injury, and we anticipate she'll be available for the World Cup," Australia team physio Kate Beerworth was quoted as saying in Cricket Australia's official website.

Australia squad: Alyssa Healy (c), Darcie Brown, Ash Gardner, Kim Garth, Grace Harris, Alana King, Phoebe Litchfield, Tahlia McGrath, Sophie Molineux, Beth Mooney, Ellyse Perry, Megan Schutt, Annabel Sutherland, Georgia Voll, Georgia Wareham.

Borg says cancer in remission after surgery

NEW YORK, AP: Tennis great Bjorn Borg reveals in the last chapter of his upcoming memoir, "Heartbeats," that he was diagnosed with an "extremely aggressive" prostate cancer, and he said it is in remission after an operation in 2024.

Bjorn Borg

"I have nothing right now. But every six months I have to go and check myself. The whole process, it's not a fun thing," Borg, 69, said in a recent interview from his home in Stockholm. "But I'm OK. I'm fine. And I'm feeling very good."

Borg won 11 Grand Slam singles titles — six at the French Open from 1974 to 1981, and five in a row at Wimbledon from 1976-80 — before walking away from tennis at age 26, although he made a brief return later.

The stunningly early retirement is one of several subjects, including his drug use and his relationships with women and his parents and children, discussed in depth in the book, which is due to be released in Britain on Sept. 18 and in the US on Sept. 23.

Borg said he wrote it with his wife, Patricia, over about two and half years.

TENNIS US OPEN

Anisimova sets up Sabalenka final

Both finalists come through after gruelling semifinal encounters

NEW YORK, AFP

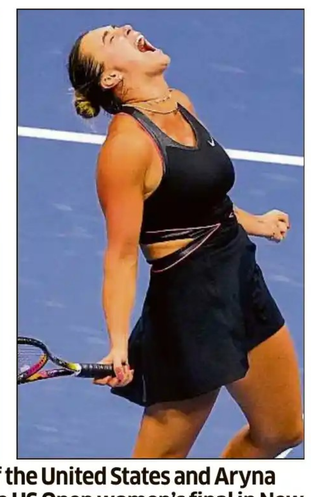
Reigning champion and world No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka will play Amanda Anisimova in the US Open final after the American ended the run of Japanese star Naomi Osaka on Thursday.

Sabalenka overcame Pegula 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 in a re-run of last year's final and is seeking to become the first player to successfully defend the title in New York since Serena Williams in 2014.

The eighth-seeded Anisimova reached her second major final in a row after rallying to overcome Osaka 6-7 (4/7), 7-6 (7/3), 6-3 in a match that stretched well past midnight in New York.

Sabalenka, the 27-year-old from Belarus, is through to her third successive US Open final.

"It was a really tough match -- she (Pegula) played incredible tennis as always and I had to work really hard to get this win," said Sabalenka.



Amanda Anisimova (left) of the United States and Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus set up the US Open women's final in New York on Thursday. AFP/ AP-PTI

Sabalenka has now made the final at four of the last five Grand Slams but has not added to her haul of three majors since winning the 2024 US Open.

She finished runner-up at the Australian Open and Roland Garros earlier this year.

She landed the first blow in the sixth game against Pegula, who saved a pair of break points before the Belarusian's persistence paid off as she surged into a 4-2 lead.

A sloppy service game from Sabalenka allowed Pegula to respond immediately. The American then held to level at 4-4 and put the pressure right back on the top seed.

An error from Sabalenka gave Pegula another break for a 5-4 advantage and she served out to love to take the first set, to the delight of the Arthur Ashe Stadium crowd.

Sabalenka reset though and roared back to reel off the first three games of the second set, an early break the difference as she sent the match to a deciding set.

A break to open the third set saw Sabalenka edge 2-0 ahead. She scrambled to save three break points and stay in control at 4-2 in and fought off another in the eighth game to close in on victory.

Pegula held and forced Sabalenka to get over the line on her own serve. She eventually converted a third match point with a crunching forehand winner to her palpable relief.

Bhambri out after best Slam run

India's Yuki Bhambri ended a semifinalist at the US Open men's doubles event with partner Michael Venus, marking his deepest run at a Grand Slam tournament, reports PTI.

Bhambri went down 7-6 (2), 6-7(5), 4-6 in a thrilling contest against the sixth seed British pair of Neal Skupski and Joe Salisbury, but not before scripting history of his own.

The 33-year-old became only the fourth Indian man in the Open era to reach a Grand Slam doubles semi-finals, after Leander Paes, Mahesh Bhupathi and Rohan Bopanna.

Messi hits a brace in an emotional home farewell

MONTEVIDEO, AFP

Lionel Messi scored twice for Argentina in emotional scenes in Buenos Aires on Thursday while Uruguay, Colombia and Paraguay joined the reigning champions at next year's World Cup.

In his last home qualifier for his country and with Argentina having already booked their place in North America, Messi struck in the 39th and 80th minutes to bag a 3-0 win over Venezuela.

Messi, who has won the Ballon d'Or eight times, sparkled in front of an adoring crowd of 80,000 at the Mas Monumental stadium to underline his enduring quality.

The Argentine legend will turn 39 during next year's World Cup, but despite his advanced years he looks set to play another pivotal role as Lionel Scaloni's side defend their crown.

Scaloni will rest his skipper for next week's dead-rubber at Ecuador.

"He made an enormous effort and deserves a rest and to be with his family," said the coach.

Lionel Messi with his sons ahead of Argentina's World Cup qualifier against Venezuela in Buenos Aires on Thursday. Messi struck a brace in his farewell match in his country. AFP

"He ended up very tired and physically exhausted. He should have come off, but he didn't because of the emotional nature of the match."

Messi had his three sons with him before kickoff and his father, Jorge, was also in attendance to mark the occasion.

Uruguay sealed their berth in the United States, Canada and Mexico by beating Peru 3-0 at home while Colombia saw off Bolivia by the same scoreline.

Paraguay also reached the 2026 finals after a 0-0 home draw against already qualified Ecuador.

Brazil, who had also already qualified, swept Chile aside 3-0 at the Maracana with the English Premier League trio of Estevao, Lucas Paqueta and Bruno Guimaraes getting the goals.

Germany shocked as Spain cruise

PARIS, AFP

Germany went down to a shock 2-0 defeat in Slovakia in their opening World Cup qualifier on Thursday, while Spain kicked off their bid to reach next year's finals with a comfortable 3-0 victory in Bulgaria.

Atletico Madrid's David Hancko burst untracked into the penalty box to fire Slovakia into the lead just before half-time against Germany in Bratislava. David Strelec, who has just signed for Middlesbrough in the English Championship, then made it two with a brilliant strike high into the top corner 10 minutes into the second half.

The result gives Slovakia a dream start in Group A as they attempt to qualify for a first World Cup since 2010.

Germany, meanwhile, find themselves immediately under pressure even if this game was their hardest fixture in the group on paper. Germany have gone out of each of the last two World Cups in the group stage, but have never failed in a qualifying campaign.

Slovakia's David Hancko (left) celebrates with David Strelec after scoring their first goal against Germany on Thursday. REUTERS

Dutch held, Belgium win

Spain's next game is away to Turkey, who staved off a Georgia comeback to win 3-2 in Tbilisi.

Mert Muldur's early opener was followed by two goals either side of half-time by Kerem Akturkoglu, and Turkey appeared to be cruising.

However, Zuriko Davitashvili pulled one back and the visitors had Baris Alper Yilmaz sent off.

Khvicha Kvaratskhelia then made it 3-2 deep in stoppage time, but Turkey held on for the victory.

The Netherlands were held to a 1-1 draw by Poland in Rotterdam in Group G despite taking the lead in the first half through Denzel Dumfries.

Belgium walloped minnows Liechtenstein 6-0 away in Group J, with Maxim De Cuyper opening the scoring.

That result leaves Belgium three points behind group leaders Wales.

Rahil, Anish lock frontline

BENGALURU, DHNS

Hyderabad ace Rahil Pillarisetty, astride Yamaha R3, led a 1-2 for his team RACR Castrol Power1, in the qualifying session of the premier class Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open as the third round of the MRF Mmsc fmsci Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship was underway at the Madras International Circuit on Friday.

While a pole position for 27-year-old Rahil barely raised an eyebrow, his team-mate, Bengaluru's Anish Damodar Shetty, returning to competition after a three-year break,

Rahil Pillarisetty

delivered the big surprise by finishing second, ahead of defending champion Sarthak Chavan, the 18-year-old from Pune and the lead rider for Petronas TVS Racing.

Results: Qualifying: Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open: Rahil Pillarisetty (Hyderabad, RACR Castrol Power1) (1: 47.975secs) 1; Anish Damodar Shetty (Bengaluru, RACR Castrol Power1) (01:48.546) 2; Sarthak Chavan (Pune, Petronas TVS Racing) (01:48.728) 3. **Super Stock 200cc Intermediate:** Kamal Navas (Chennai, Rockers Racing) (02:05.476) 1; Mohamed Samrul Zubair (Hyderabad, Motul Sparks Racing) (02:05.910) 2; Vyshak Shoban (Chennai, Speed Up Racing) (02:05.948) 3. **Stock 301-400cc (Novice):** Mohamed Mikhail (Tiruvallur, Mad Rabbit Racing) (01:59.017) 1; Jagadeesh Nagaraj (Bengaluru, Motul Sparks Racing) (01:59.251) 2; Kamal Navas (Chennai, Rockers Racing) (02:01.015) 3. **Stock 165cc (Novice):** Rajender Beedani (Hyderabad, MAI Racing) (02:08.217) 1; CS Kedarnadh (Tirupati, Motul KTM Gusto Racing India) (02:08.349) 2; Amit Prasad (Mysuru, Mad Rabbit Racing) (02:09.868) 3. **Expert (Apache RR 310):** Manoj Yesuadiayan (Chennai) (01:55.669) 1; Mohan Babu P (Chennai) (01:56.351) 2; Kaushik Subbiah Ganesan (Chennai) (01:56.478) 3. **Women (Apache RTR 200):** Jagathishree Kumaresan (Chennai) (02:11.988) 1; Elakiya Ravi (Chennai) (02:12.630) 2; SP Shuria (Bengaluru) (02:13.044) 3. **Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup (Honda CB300F):** Solomon R (Chennai) (02:05.931) 1; Raivat Dhar (Jammu) (02:06.167) 2; Ann Jennifer (Chennai) (02:07.495) 3.

BCCI raises sponsorship rates

MUMBAI, PTI: Sponsoring the Indian cricket team is set to get costlier with the BCCI raising the amount to Rs 3.5 crore per match for a bilateral series and Rs 1.5 crore for a game in a multilateral event.

According to a Cricbuzz report, these figures will apply in competitions sanctioned and organised by the ICC and Asian Cricket Council (ACC).

The report added that these figures are slightly higher than the current rates of Rs 3.17 crore for bilateral games and Rs 1.12 crore for multilateral matches.

The development comes in the wake of Dream11's exit as jersey sponsor, which was triggered by the government's Online Gaming Act, 2025.

With this revision, which will come into effect only after the end of the upcoming Asia Cup, the BCCI could potentially earn over 400 crore rupees, though the final figure may be higher depending on the bidding outcome.

The BCCI on Tuesday invited bids for the Indian team's title sponsorship rights.

Wknd.

DH DECCAN HERALD

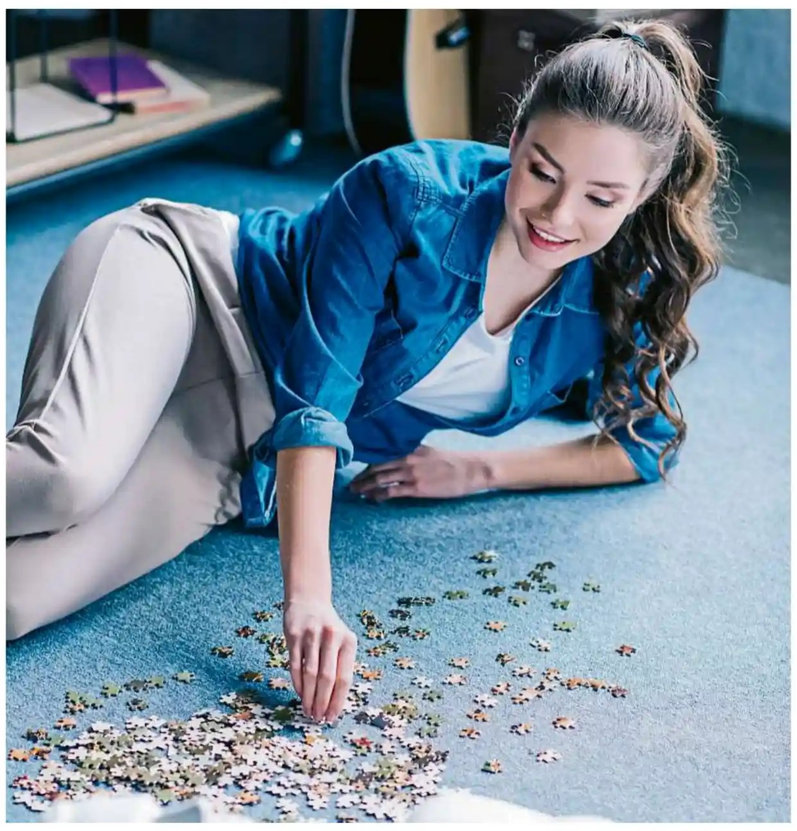
ADVERTORIAL & PROMOTIONAL LIFESTYLE FEATURE

MAESTRO OF MODERN MINIMALISM

PAGE 03

How sharp are your grey cells?

Work for your mind and nutrition for your body will keep your memory sharp into the years, says **Shilpi Madan**



With all the Insta talk about memory loss setting in with the pressure-cooker urban lifestyles, the focus on sharpening your memory is gaining momentum. Here are ways in which you can strengthen the grey matter into grasping and recollecting things as you move into your daily grind.

Play a game

Take your pick. Sudoku, crosswords, memory games... there is a world of options to choose from. Make a choice and pick a game that challenges you mentally. Like Tangleword makes you scour and spot words in a maze, much like Spot What makes you hunt for tiny elements in a crowded landscape.

Play a game every day, it could even begin with trying a new spot to keep your keys away safely in.

Favour second

Make use of your secondary hand to perform the primary tasks. From brushing your teeth to carrying your dish to pulling your clothes out, leave it to your left hand to take on the work. Keeps you mentally and physically agile, tuning the hand-eye co-ordination as well.

Just like walking backwards for two minutes every day.

Make acronyms

Create a to-do list inside your head, and link up the letters to create an acronym, instead of depending on post-its. You can optionally draw a mental map. You can even shape a mind space, by thinking of things and situations, to create mental hooks to remember the sequence of tasks you need to accomplish.

Memory test

Try to memorise a phone number or the number plate of your vehicle. In times when you are used to pressing the name of a person on your cell phone to call, writing the digits on a piece of paper brings in the memory sharpener.

Even if you forget the name of a person you meet, push your mind to recall the name in a little while. Keep at it.

Structure your day

Budget in eight hours of sleep, power naps, and break from the pace of phone calls, emails and laptop work. Your mind needs rest, a complete switch off now and then to keep it sharp. Learn to strike a balance between screen time and real time.

Have your vitamin supplements, a healthy nutritious diet and plenty of nuts and seeds to get that grey matter going strong into the years.

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₹299 to ₹499

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DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. COOKNOOK

HEALTHY BYTE

Steamed or baked versions of your favourite snacks are better than deep-fried ones as they retain more of their nutritional value

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

FRUIT WITH NUT BUTTER

Pairing apple or banana slices with peanut or almond butter offers a satisfying balance of fibre, natural sugars and healthy fats. This combo fuels your body, stabilises blood sugar and satisfies sweet cravings. Ideal for a pre-workout snack or a quick energy boost during hectic days.

TRAIL MIX

A handful of trail mix made with unsalted nuts, seeds and dried fruits, delivers protein, healthy fats and a natural sweetness. It's perfect for busy schedules and outdoor adventures. Just watch the portions, as it's calorie-dense. Add dark chocolate chips or coconut flakes for a fun and tasty twist.

The present-day kitchen appliances are designed to confer the benefits of yesteryears' traditional cooking with the convenience of today's design. **Swatee Jog** looks into a modern cook nook

KITCHENWARE TODAY
Past tradition, modern convenience

Trupti Venkatesh is a 35-year-old UI-UX designer working for a tech company in the city. Originally from Dharwad, Trupti's home had all the traditional kitchen tools such as a grinding stone, coffee grinder, clay pots, cast iron skillets and more. When Trupti set up her own home in Bengaluru after her wedding, she yearned for all those tools and never really liked the modern gadgets. "They make food tasteless", she said with a smirk. Over time though, Trupti started searching online and soon could lay her hands on modern versions of her grandma's kitchen tools. These tools and kitchen equipment have enabled her fulfil her need while also being easy to use.

Walk into any modern kitchen today, and amid the sleek appliances and modular designs, you might notice something familiar - tools that your grandmother once used, now reimagined in contemporary forms. The mortar and pestle sits proudly on the counter in polished granite with a rubber base to hold firmly on the kitchen counter, copper vessels in modern designs gleam with designer finishes, and clay pots find their way into slow cookers and fancy cook and serve forms. These timeless tools, rooted in tradition, are making a comeback in a modern form, blending nostalgia with practicality.

Cast iron skillet

Kitchenware in wood

Why the comeback?

Modern lifestyles have often been criticised for being rushed, artificial and far removed from natural living. In contrast, traditional tools connect you to a slower, healthier way of life. Today, people are rediscovering the charm and benefits of these age-old practices, but with a touch of convenience, design and technology.

Health benefits

Mortar and pestle vs electric grinder: Crushing spices in a mortar and pestle releases natural oils slowly, enhancing flavour and retaining nutrients. Modern granite or marble sets retain the authenticity while doubling up as stylish kitchen decor elements. Some are even fitted with electric motors for ease of use.

Clay pot and handi: Cooking in earthenware adds an earthy aroma and also essential minerals to food while helping retain moisture. Today's non-toxic, glazed clay cookers and electric slow cookers with clay inserts bring this benefit with convenience.

Copper and brass dinnerware: Known for their anti-bacterial properties, copper vessels are now lacquer-coated to avoid reactions and are available in stylish, designer forms. The lacquer coating can be redone if it ever wears off.

Clay cook and serve ware

Butter churner

Eco-friendly and sustainable

Many of these tools are eco-friendly alternatives to plastic or toxic non-stick cookware.

Matka for water reduces dependence on electricity-driven coolers and plastic bottles. Modern day matka comes with sturdy stand and steel tap.

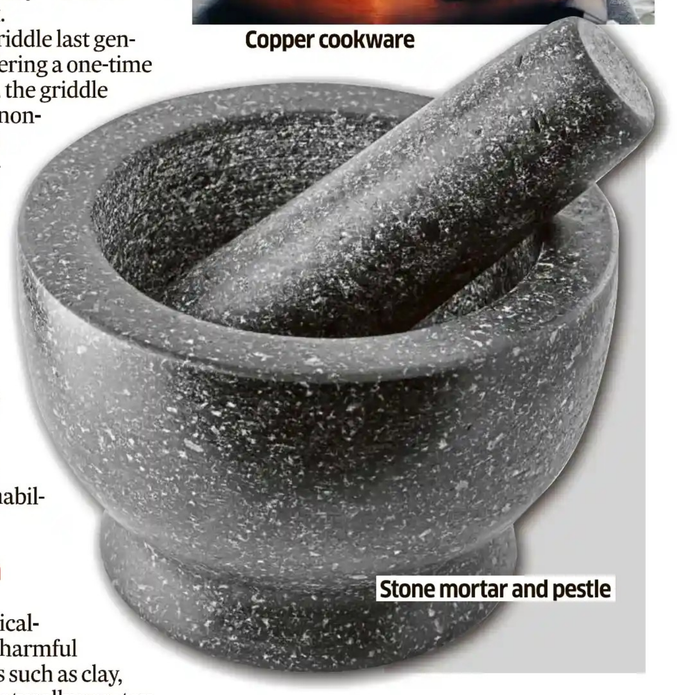
Banana leaf plate and bamboo dinnerware offer biodegradable options in place of disposables. You can find them from eco-friendly manufacturers and can be bought in bulk.

Cast iron kadhai, skillet and griddle last generations, reducing waste and offering a one-time investment. Once cured with oil, the griddle and skillet become 100 per cent non-stick without the fear of harmful chemical residue and micro particles seeping in your food.

Wood and bamboo plate, spoon, ladle, chopping board – wood has been a preferred medium for being inert (does not react with chemicals). It also lends its own distinct flavour to foods and is non-toxic. It is also completely bio-degradable once discarded.

By bringing these home, you not only reduce the carbon footprint but also honour the sustainability practices of the past.

Copper cookware



Stone mortar and pestle

Why choose the modern versions?

Non-toxic cooking: Unlike chemically-coated utensils that can leach harmful substances, traditional materials such as clay, cast iron, brass and copper are naturally non-toxic. Modern versions ensure safety through certified coatings or improved design, marrying health with convenience. All these are available online too.

Fun, nostalgic and mindful: There's something therapeutic about grinding spices and coffee by hand, churning lassi with a traditional whisk, or cooking in a clay handi. Carrying a portable cast iron barbeque grill and enjoying on veggies, corn and paneer on picnics is an experience like nothing else. These activities bring mindfulness into everyday cooking - a reminder of family recipes, festive meals and the joy of slowing down. Modern forms make these practices accessible without sacrificing ease.

Bridge between past and present

From electric wet grinders inspired by the heavy stone ones, to ergonomic rolling pins that echo the humble chakla-belan (rolling pin) and a modern-day glass butter churner, they represent more than just kitchen tools. They are a bridge between past wisdom and present convenience.

Clay water filter

LEISURE

Beetle Bailey

HOLD ALL OF MY NONESSENTIAL CALLS
YES, SIR
GREG+MORT WALKER
4/19
HE NEVER GETS ESSENTIAL CALLS EITHER, SO HE CAN NAP FOR HOURS
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JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GEVUA

MICBL

GITMAS

SIFEUN

Let's try again. Count all your fingers.
Don't worry. Once you get it, it will be easy from then on.
1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8, 9 and... I forget.
2/10
REMEMBERING THE FIRST POSITIVE TWO-DIGIT NUMBER WOULD SOON BE ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play Jumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print the answer here: _____

Answers

VAGUE CLIMB STIGMA INFUSE

Remembering the first positive two-digit number would soon be — TENABLE

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HITORI-112

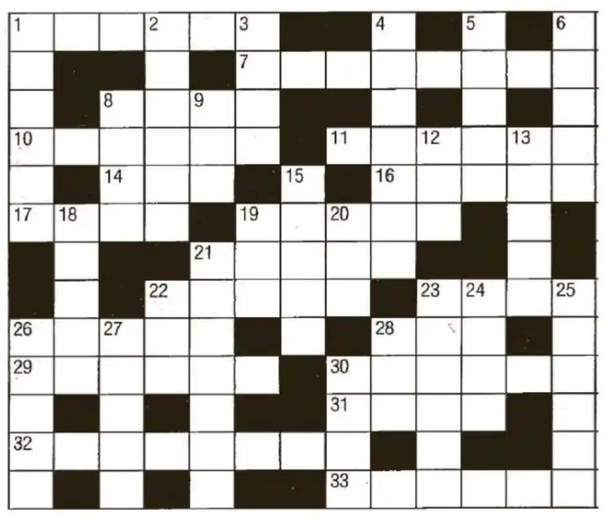
8	7	8	3	8	2	4	8
6	3	8	7	5	1	1	8
8	4	2	7	6	4	6	1
2	8	4	1	3	6	2	7
5	7	1	2	8	8	7	4
3	4	7	5	1	8	8	2
1	8	5	3	2	8	6	3
1	2	6	8	7	7	3	4

SOLUTION for HITORI-112

■	3	7	■	8	6	2	■
3	6	■	2	■	5	■	1
2	■	8	1	5	7	4	3
4	7	■	8	2	1	■	5
7	2	6	3	1	4	8	■
1	■	4	6	■	2	■	8
8	1	■	5	7	■	3	6
■	4	2	■	3	8	7	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 113



EASY

ACROSS
1 Hesitates to believe (6)
7 Golden horse (8)
8 Bill of fare (4)
10 Car horn (6)
11 Submissive (6)
14 Spanish cry (3)
16 Distinguished (5)
17 Ridge of drifted sand (4)
19 Sits for an artist (5)
21 Fastening bolt (5)
22 Group of nine (5)
23 Missing (4)
26 Cherished hope (5)
28 Swindle (3)
29 Assortment (6)
30 Find (6)
31 Adjoin (4)
32 Particular (8)
33 Thing (6)

DOWN
1 Rushed (6)
2 Ladybird, say (6)
3 Incitement (4)
4 Small crown (7)
5 Restrict (5)
6 Filleted (5)
8 Satellite (4)
9 Born (3)
12 Lettuce (3)
13 Jumps vigorously (5)
15 Lid (5)
18 Extreme (5)
19 Narrow brooch (3)
20 Harden (3)
21 Country (7)
22 Arrest (3)
23 Destructive insect (6)
24 Nagging, informally (2,2)
25 Fashionable (6)
26 Waste (5)
27 Wading bird (5)
28 Loaf type (3)
30 Shoe fastener (4)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Increase greatly, as from negative beginnings (4,2)
7 One not so hot, nowadays, as a lover (3,5)
8 If wrong, do right, pet! (4)
10 Author of a document with lack of proper support (6)
11 Touching way to get a laugh (6)
14 Haggard woman? (3)
16 Examples of detective work in hospital? (5)
17 Ceremony heartening to "10 Across" (4)
19 American Joe gets back in the car for a smoke (5)
21 Produced the stuff with which we start on the cooker (5)
22 Get ready to eat? (5)
23 Existed in fewer examples (4)
26 King whose many daughters all had the same name? (5)
28 A note of consolation (3)
29 Worked to get a listener named (6)
30 In the dark shade of a sombrero? (6)
31 Public transport experimentally on test (4)
32 When he takes a horse to the back of the stable, it's noisy (8)
33 Bitty compositions? (6)

DOWN
1 He makes a drink in a British Rail jug (6)
2 Twist so as to wither, possibly (6)
3 Being on the dole is not good (4)
4 Like a movie Queen once launched (7)
5 Retreats from the defenders! (5)
6 Deems mistakenly to be old people (5)
8 Striking calligraphy? (4)
9 Water that's deep at the pierhead (3)
12 One driven out of Nicaragua? (3)
13 Bar wrecked in a revel (5)
15 Ways in which I have to stir things up (5)
18 Thin sort of paper in Asian atlases (5)
19 Old Bill's syncopated piece (3)
20 Information of some urgency (3)
21 Sage, worldly character in "Pilgrim's Progress" (7)
22 Fled from tyranny (3)
23 Common character in the Wimbledon area? (6)
24 River in the foreign part of Berlin (4)
25 Less than seventeen possible occurrences (6)
26 Drinking it would make me thus "non-U" (5)
27 Fear of an adder getting loose? (5)
28 So a bit of fun needs a little money (3)
30 Tread on pets inadvertently! (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 113

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1. Blow up 7, Old flame 8, Fi-do 10, Writ-er 11,Tickle 14, She 16, Cases 17, (w-)Rite(-r) 19, C-IG-ar 21, W-oven 22, Ripen 23, Were 26, M-idas 28, Sol 29, Ear-Ned 30, Sombre 31,Tube 32, He- Arab-le 33, Pieces.
DOWN: 1. BR-ewer 2, Writhe 3, Poor 4, Africa-n 5, Backs 6, Medes 8, Fist 9, Dee 12, Car 13, Lever 15, L-I'Ve-N 18, India 19, Cop 20, Gen 21, Wiseman 22, Ran 23, Womble 24, El-be 25, Events 26, Meth-s 27, Dread 28, So-u 30, Step.

EASY
ACROSS: 1. Doubts; 7. Palomino; 8. Menu; 10. Hooter; 11. Docile; 14. Ole; 16. Noted; 17. Dune; 19. Poses; 21. Rivet; 22. Nonet; 23. Lost; 26. Dream; 28. Con; 29. Ragbag; 30. Locate; 31. Abut; 32. Specific; 33. Entity.
DOWN: 1. Dashed; 2. Beetle; 3. Spur; 4. Coronet; 5. Limit; 6. Boned; 8. Moon; 9. Nee; 12. Cos; 13. Leaps; 15. Cover; 18. Ultra; 19. Pin; 20. Set; 21. Romania; 22. Nab; 23. Locust; 24. On at; 25. Trendy; 26. Dross; 27. Egret; 28. Cob; 30. Lace.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. FASHION

Through the festive season you tend to consume more sugar. Factor this into your work-out regimen

HEALTHY BYTE

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

HOT COCOA WITH A TWIST

Indulge in a rich mug of hot cocoa, enhanced with a hint of cinnamon and orange zest. Top with whipped cream or marshmallow. This warming treat is ideal for cool winter evenings. It is a great drink for get-togethers through the winter.

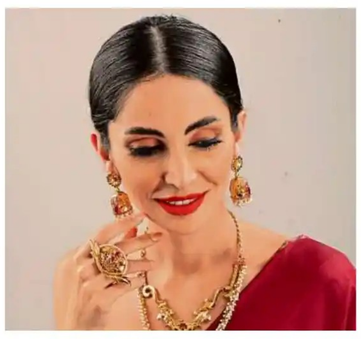
POMEGRANATE MOJITO MOCKTAIL

This vibrant, jewel-toned mocktail combines pomegranate juice, mint leaves, lime and soda for a refreshing burst of flavour. It's festive, tangy and looks stunning in a clear glass. Ideal for those who don't drink alcohol but want to enjoy a sophisticated party beverage. Add pomegranate seeds for extra crunch.

Glamourous, mindful and truly yours

Style File

Deepa Natarajan Lobo presents a style guide for this festive season



Styling: Shrishti Jaiswal. PIC COURTESY: J D INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY

The festive season is here and this year, forget the rush of last-minute shopping and the pressure to follow what everyone else is wearing. Instead, make your style a reflection of you - your stories, your memories. Whether it's an heirloom saree given a fresh twist, jewellery that holds meaning, or a handmade piece from a local artisan – this is the season to be truly you!

Fashion designer Husna Sait and styling consultant Shrishti Jaiswal share some tips on how to create looks that are not only beautiful, but also comfortable, personal, and worth treasuring.

Let the fabric lead

"Sixty per cent of your outfit is your fabric, so pick it carefully," says Husna. She advises gravitating towards rich fabrics and vibrant hues. "Fabrics such as brocade, tissue, jacquard, 'jamdani', 'ikat' and 'jamawar' have richness and character. When you embellish them with mirror work or 'zardozi' borders, your outfit will look more regal. Go for colours like fuchsia, reds, purples and golds."

Start with comfort, add glam

For the modern woman balancing a busy life, comfort is paramount, believes Shrishti. Her tip - begin with a comfortable, solid piece and build the festive flair with accessories, make-up and hair. "Pull out that black dress and pair it with statement temple jewellery or elegant 'jhumkas'. Add a smoky eye and a braided hairstyle, and you have created a stunning Indian fusion look that's perfect for any festive gathering. You can also elevate your office celebrations with a solid cotton asymmetrical co-ord. Simply accessorise with heavy jute and stone jewellery and a stylish braid, for a perfectly festive, yet professional vibe. For a dramatic evening look, a jumpsuit silhouette becomes a showstopper when adorned with chunky antique silver jewellery," she states.

Reinvent legacy pieces

One of the most emotional - and sustainable - style moves is repurposing family heirlooms. "Repurpose, reinvent, recycle your mom's and grandma's sarees. Redesign your legacy," Husna urges. "Go through your wardrobe, find something to elevate and reuse, then layer it with something new and some old pieces."

Accessories are game-changers

"True style lies in the details - the art of accessorising that transforms the familiar into the extraordinary," says Shrishti while Husna agrees that jewellery can make or break a festive look. "Heavy jhumkas, polki kadas, chokers - they will elevate even the simplest outfit," she notes.

Footwear with cultural soul

"Buy those mojris or Kolhapuris with beads and ghungroos from your local footwear store," Husna advises. "Why should we shout at cultural appropriation and not give our artisans credit? Flaunt them with pride — they are beautiful and they are ours."

Designer Husna Sait. PIC: NASIR JIWANI.

Styling: Shrishti Jaiswal. PIC COURTESY: J D INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY.

Some festive styling tricks

- Re-wear doesn't have to mean repeat. Change the blouse, add a jacket, drape your dupatta differently - these small tweaks completely transform your look.
- Sometimes, all you need is a bold accessory swap to take a look from day to night.
- Buy local, wear local. Handmade pieces add value.

'Healthcare is not only about sophisticated treatment, it's also about empathy and experience...'

With new units at Hennur Road and now at Sarjapur, SPARSH Group of Hospitals is entering a transformative phase of growth. Known for its blend of clinical excellence, ethical care and innovation, SPARSH is shaping Bengaluru's position as a hub for world-class healthcare. Dr Sharan Shivaraj Patil, Chairman, SPARSH Group of Hospitals, spoke on capacity expansion, innovation, community connect, and the future of healthcare delivery.

With Hennur operational and Sarjapur on the way, what is SPARSH's overall bed capacity now and what is your target for the next few years?

Today, our network has around 1,150 beds. With Sarjapur, this will cross 1,400 beds, and in the next three years, we are on track to scale up to 2,000 beds. This expansion cements SPARSH as one of the leading multi-specialty tertiary care providers in Bengaluru.

Bengaluru has many leading hospitals. How does SPARSH build a deeper connect with local communities?

We want to be not just a provider of complex, world-class treatment but also a true healthcare partner to Bengaluru's citizens. At the new Sarjapur unit, our focus is on treating complexities across specialties through highly skilled teams that work in an integrated manner. It is not about one super-specialty standing out, but about a collaborative ecosystem where orthopedics, neurosciences, cardiac sciences, oncology, transplants and other disciplines come together to solve challenging cases. This integration, combined with top doctors, advanced technologies like robotics and AI-driven diagnostics, and state-of-the-art infrastructure, differentiates SPARSH from others in Bengaluru.

SPARSH talks about 'premiumness'. How do you balance premium experience with affordable, ethical care?

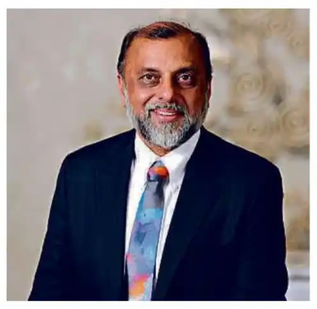
Healthcare is not only about sophisticated treatment - it is also about empathy and experience. Our focus is on delivering high-quality care alongside warmth, compassion and service. That's what we mean by premiumness - not just advanced facilities but a patient experience that inspires trust and comfort.

How is SPARSH integrating new technologies like robotics, AI and 3D printing into patient care?

We are investing heavily in robotic surgery, AI-driven diagnostics, advanced imaging and state-of-the-art Cath labs. These technologies enhance precision, personalised care, improve outcomes, and make care safer and more efficient. Every SPARSH unit, including Sarjapur, will be fully equipped with these technologies across specialties.

SPARSH is known for its specialists. How do you continue to attract and retain top medical talent?

SPARSH has become a platform where top doctors want to work. Our team-based work culture, access to cutting-edge technology and emphasis on complex case management attract not only talent from India but also doctors returning from overseas. This is one of our biggest strengths.



Dr Sharan Shivaraj Patil, Chairman, SPARSH Group of Hospitals

You've spoken about data sovereignty. Why is this such a crucial issue?

Healthcare is becoming digital, and at SPARSH, we are nearly paperless. Data is powerful - it can predict outcomes, prevent complications and improve care. But it can also be misused if compromised. Protecting patient data is non-negotiable, and we have strong firewalls and systems to safeguard it.

Do you see Bengaluru emerging as a medical tourism hub?

Bengaluru is poised for massive growth thanks to its world-class infrastructure, skilled doctors and international connectivity. At SPARSH, we see ourselves contributing significantly to this opportunity, while continuing to serve local patients with the same dedication.

Bhima unveils Raas Leela Collection

This exquisite collection with intricate detailing is an ode to divine love

Bhima, one of south India's most trusted names in fine jewellery, proudly presents its all-new Raas Leela Collection - a stunning range of jewels crafted in gold, diamonds and gemstones that feature Goddess Radha and Lord Krishna. Every piece in this collection features intricate detailing, vibrant gemstones and the finest Bhima artistry, echoing the grace and rhythm of the Raas Leela itself.

The Raas Leela collection celebrates the divine love of Goddess Radha and Lord Krishna, and brings alive the spirit of their timeless bond, which is set in the enchanted forest of Nidhivan, where every glance, every step and every note of music becomes an expression of love.

Crafted with radiant diamonds, gemstones and set in pure gold, every piece is a poetic narration of heritage, devotion and timeless beauty. Intricate patterns, delicate carvings and masterful detailing that evoke the divine love of Goddess Radha and Lord Krishna, transforming age-old traditions into jewels of everlasting magnificence.

Each piece in this exquisite collection embodies the grace of this divine story, designed to resonate with the spirit of celebration and devotion. Ideal for both special occasions and everyday elegance, the Raas Leela Collection invites you to adorn yourself in art that tells a timeless tale.

The collection is now available at all Bhima showrooms across Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

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Maestro of modern minimalism

Giorgio Armani was more than a designer. He was a poet of simplicity, a visionary who distilled fashion to its most essential, breathtaking honesty, writes **Prasad Bidapa**

Giorgio Armani 1934-2025

In the gentle hush of early September, Milan mourned and the world paused - the maestro of modern minimalism Giorgio Armani slipped away at the age of 91, surrounded by those he cherished deeply.

Today, we lose not merely a designer, but a poet of simplicity - a visionary who distilled fashion to its most essential, breathtaking honesty. He taught us that beauty lives in the unspoken, the pared-back, the quietly powerful shoulder drape, the seamless canvas of fabric that whispers rather than shouts.

Like a gentle mentor, Armani shaped silhouettes with the calm conviction of water carving stone - refined, purposeful, unwavering. His soft tailoring, his subtleties of tone, his fearless stripping away of excess - these were not merely trends, they were philosophies. These garments were love letters to modernity, to restraint, to inner elegance.

And yet, let us remember, he was no cold minimalist. Behind those muted tones lay a deep, compassionate heartbeat. A man who built an empire on integrity and craft, who never relinquished control of his dream, and who - right until his final days - remained its beating soul.

In the Indian fashion world, we often speak of balance - the dance between spirit and form, silence and statement. Armani embodied that philosophy with grace. His clothes did not clamour, they invited us to inhabit them, to breathe with quiet confidence.

So today, in sorrow, we also celebrate. We celebrate the minimalist boy from Piacenza who became a global giant. We celebrate the clarity he brought to style. And we celebrate his legacy - an eternal lesson on how to be understated, yet unforgettable.

Goodbye, Maestro. Your designs may hang folded in closets, but your spirit will walk beside us, in every clean line, every brush of tailored fabric against our skin.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. VARIETY

A balcony overlooking the garden is a great place to create a festive focal point

HOME FRONT

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

FESTIVE GLOW

Swap harsh white lights for warm-toned lamps, fairy lights or candles. Soft golden hues create a welcoming, festive vibe instantly. Use clusters of diyas or tea lights in corners to add charm while highlighting decor pieces. Lighting sets the mood and is the quickest way to amp up any space.

CREATE SPACE WITH MIRRORS

Mirrors reflect light and make rooms appear more expansive. Place them strategically near windows or opposite lamps to amplify the festive glow. Choose ornate frames in metallic finishes for a festive, regal effect without major renovations.

Circular gardening in your backyard

Deepa Natarajan Lobo explains how you can create a lush green and eco-friendly garden space

Green Sheen

DEEPA NATARAJAN LOBO

In a world bogged down by fast-trash lifestyle and throwaway culture, a quiet little shift is taking root right in our own backyards – the process of circular gardening. A regenerative shift that involves not just growing plants but also reimagining waste, conserving every drop of water, and creating a garden that's as kind to the planet as it is beautiful; circular gardening is a breath of fresh air, reminding us that nothing in Nature can truly go waste.

Think of it as closing the loop - where every peel, scrap, and drop has a purpose, and creativity flows as freely as the greenery. The result? A lush, thriving space that nourishes us while giving back to Nature.

To show us how, three design experts - Dr Nischay N, Uditi Sandilya and Veena Anand - share simple, thoughtful ways to weave circularity into our everyday gardening.

S.E.E.D.S approach

Circular gardening can be understood through the S.E.E.D.S. framework - save, encourage, economise, design and sustain. For Dr Nischay N, Green Associate with the US Green Building Council, this approach is about looking at what we already have and reimagining its use. It begins with composting - food scraps such as eggshells, vegetable/fruit peels and coffee grounds which can be turned into compost. "Additionally, plant nectar-rich flowers like marigold, lavender and sunflower to attract bees, butterflies and ladybugs. A healthy pollinator population means stronger, more productive plants," he advises.

Economising water usage is another essential step, which includes watering the plants early morning or evening to minimise evaporation. "Mulching the soil to retain moisture and collecting rainwater for an eco-friendly irrigation source are other simple steps you can take to minimise water wastage and ensure a thriving garden," he adds.

Home treasures, reimagined

Gardening isn't necessarily about running to the shop for supplies – often, the best treasures are hiding at home, believes Uditi Sandilya, an interior design consultant. "Old tins, glass jars, or even broken buckets can be upcycled into planters. Shattered clay pots? Use them as drainage chips or piece them together into a mosaic-style garden border. Ditch chemical fertilisers and instead brew your own 'compost tea' from kitchen scraps like coffee grounds, banana peels and veggie waste - your plants will thrive on this nutrient boost. You can also skip plastics and support plants with bamboo, jute or coir," she suggests.

If you want to go to the next level, turn old shoe racks into vertical herb gardens, hang rain boots as playful planters, or lay cracked tiles into a colourful garden path. "Even CDs can double as bird deterrents when hung on branches," she observes.

Nurturing Nature, naturally!

For Veena Anand, landscape designer and entrepreneur, sustainable gardening is all about nurturing Nature. Growing native plants and cultivating your own food are two simple steps towards it, she points out. "Native plants are adapted to the local climate and ecosystem and reduce the need for supplemental watering and pest control while cultivating your own fruits, vegetables and herbs garden reduces the need to purchase commercially-grown produce, which often involves transportation and packaging," she shares.

Closing the circuit

Circular gardening is more than a technique - it is a mindset. By saving waste, encouraging biodiversity, economising resources, designing with reuse and sustaining the cycle through homegrown food, anyone can transform their garden into a living example of sustainability. As Veena puts it, "If every human being learns and values the importance of going the sustainable way, we can create healthy and thriving ecosystems right in our backyards."

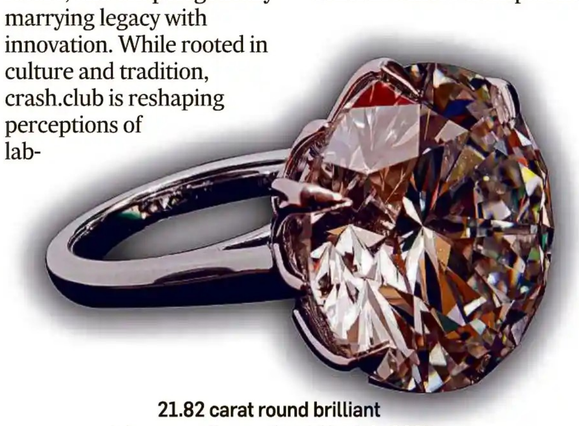
crash.club by C. Krishniah Chetty Group redefines luxury with 'The Legacy Duo'

In a world where legacy is often inherited, crash.club by the C. Krishniah Chetty Group continues to prove that it can be forged, brilliantly.

Recently, the brand marked a historic milestone in global fine jewellery with the private sale of a 21.82 carat round brilliant lab-grown diamond, VVS2 clarity, F colour, the largest lab-grown diamond of its kind ever sold to a private client. This record-breaking moment follows the brand's own previous benchmark - a 20.06 carat emerald cut lab-grown diamond sold in June 2024. With this, crash.club becomes the only lab-grown jewellery brand to have broken this record not once, but twice.

Together, these two masterpieces are being celebrated as 'The Legacy Duo', a powerful reflection of modern craftsmanship, responsible luxury and timeless design thinking. "We don't follow the industry. We lead it," says Chaitanya V Cotha, Director, C. Krishniah Chetty Group. "The Legacy Duo is not about the carat count alone - it's about showing the world what happens when technology, trust and heritage converge."

Backed by over 155 years of trust, the C. Krishniah Chetty Group is one of India's most respected jewellery houses. With crash.club, the group steps boldly into the future, bridging the past and the future, and unapologetically marrying legacy with innovation. While rooted in culture and tradition, crash.club is reshaping perceptions of lab-grown diamonds in India by offering clients heirlooms that are crafted with purpose.

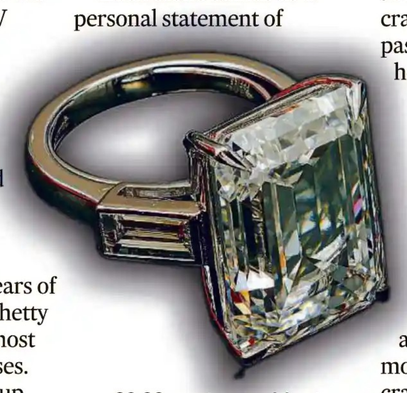


21.82 carat round brilliant lab-grown diamond, sold in July 2025

The Legacy Duo

- 20.06 ct emerald cut. Architectural brilliance with the edge of modern royalty.
- 21.82 ct round brilliant. Precision, purity and perfect symmetry in motion.

Each stone stands as a personal statement of belief in a more transparent future, and a reflection of the values today's collectors hold.



20.06 carat emerald cut lab-grown diamond, sold in June 2024

Silver, diamonds and heart for conservation

At crash.club, luxury isn't just about tradition, it's about transformation. With a vision to build a brand that would become the future of affordable luxury, Chaitanya V Cotha, Executive Director, C. Krishniah Chetty Group of Jewellers, launched crash.club in 2023. A passionate wildlife advocate, he tied a portion of crash.club's profits to the protection and conservation of rhinos in Africa.

In two years, crash.club has redefined fine jewellery in unconventional ways while making sustainable choices more accessible. A conscious movement. A style manifesto. crash.club has gone on to show that luxury can have both style and soul.

Celebrate without the guilt

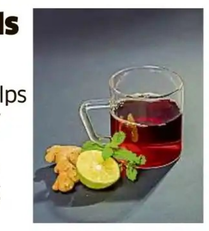
Festivals are all about indulgence, but it doesn't have to mean derailing your health goals. With a little mindfulness and smart swaps, you can enjoy traditional favourites without overdoing it. Savour the season while staying light, energised, and guilt-free.

Portion control is key

Enjoy your favourite laddoos and snacks, but in moderation. Use smaller plates to trick your mind into feeling full. Take small servings and eat slowly, allowing your body to register fullness. Remember, it's better to taste everything in small amounts than to overload on a single dish.

Hydrate before festive meals

Drinking water or herbal tea before a heavy meal keeps you hydrated and helps prevent overeating. Warm lemon water or detox drinks with mint and ginger are ideal choices. Staying hydrated also balances salt and sugar intake, reducing bloating after festive feasts.



Get rid of anxiety the easy way

Shilpi Madan has some simple tips to help you get your mood up

Peace Full

Fretting and fuming, staring mindlessly into the rain hammering against your window, and staying lacklustre are making ways for anxiety to home into your mind. Get rid of the saggy feelings and move to physically put away unnecessary thought-build up behind you.

Here are ways to get started:

Clean up

Give away the old clothes and essentials that you haven't used in a lifetime. This dispels negative energy. Pack up outfits that no longer fit you, and deep cleanse your wardrobe. Then clear up your study table, and the bedside, removing dust, grime and unwanted collectibles.

This infuses a sense of control as you reorganise the space. Try re-arranging the furniture in your living room to give it a new look and bring in a degree of kineticism.

Let the music play

The chants, the drums, the sound of water and the tiny bells - make it work for you. Add chimes by your window, make it a point to blow the conch after your puja, ring the tiny bells, play some music to set the background score as you go about your daily work.

Comfort rules

Bring in a soothing sight. It could be a freshly-plucked flower during your morning walk, a sunny article you read in the newspaper, your favourite mug by the laptop, photographs with family and friends on your softboard, or even wearing a T-shirt gifted to you on your birthday.

Do what it takes to rev up the mood.

Texture well

Celebrate textures. A unique coaster, a bright handmade bookmark, bobbing greens on your windowsill, or a book cover on your latest read, the colour of your headphone case, your new spectacles, a blue cushion, or that ring or pendant... keep the energy going by placing a few textural pieces around you.

Just indulge

Light up the aromatic candle, sip on hot chocolate, enjoy your cup of chamomile, drink the infused water, burn an incense stick, and spray the room freshener. Make the sensorial flow work for you at multiple levels to rev up your day.

Plan the weekend

What are you looking forward to? Make the list of things you want to do and people you want to meet and tag it on the wall. This could be a movie outing with friends, a jog in the park with your pet, catching up on a game of badminton, checking out a new cafe, or meeting up for coffee.

Remember, every day isn't a productivity challenge. Anchor your thoughts, be by yourself. Sometimes it is good to do, just nothing. It's a mood changer. Try it, for a change.

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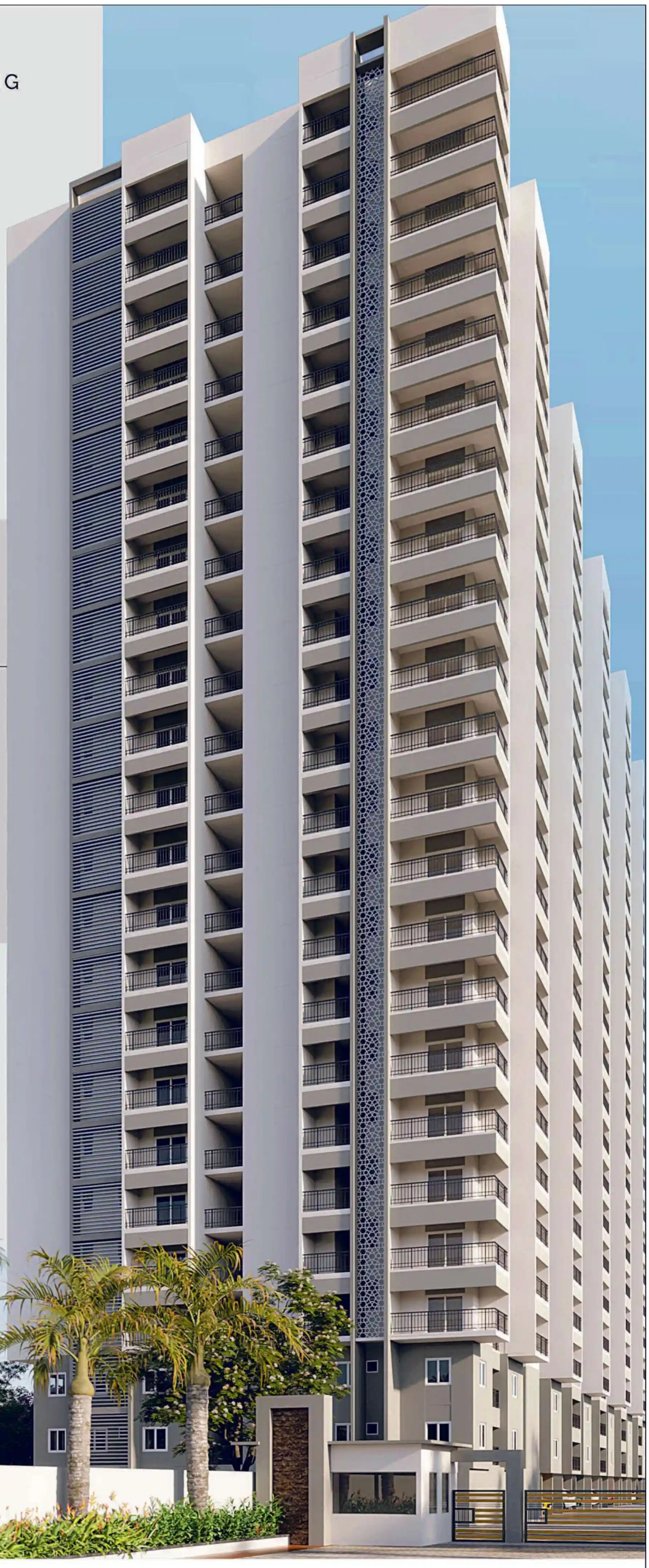

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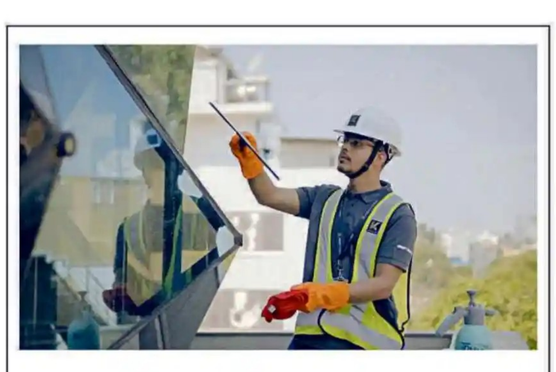

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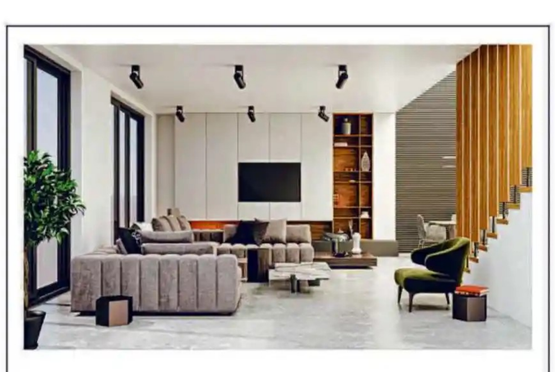

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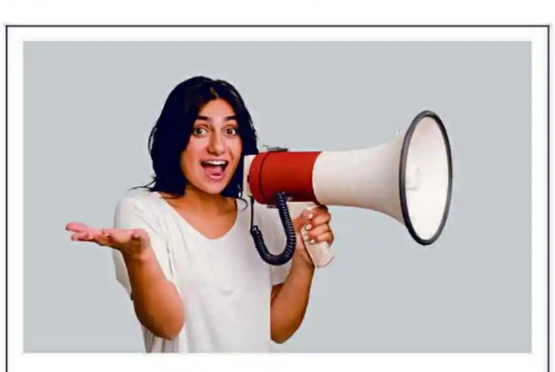

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